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BOLTON INFLICT A HOME DEFEAT ON HOWE'S MEN

Bournemouth v Bolton match report – see page 5



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FASHIONABLY LATE...

SAINTS ARE MASTERS OF THE LATE GOAL SEE PAGES 6-9



JAY-CK IN THE BOX

J-Rod pops up to level after Stoke keeper nets bizarre 12th-second opener

STOKE 1 SAINTS 1

SAINTS recovered from conceding one of the most bizarre goals in Premier League history to claim a point at Stoke.

Potters keeper Asmir Begovic gave Stoke the lead after just 12 seconds with a direct punt downfield that caught the wind and bounced over the head of Artur Boruc.

It was the fourth fastest

goal in Premier League history and came with only Stoke's second touch of the ball.

The freak nature of the goal temporarily shocked Saints but they rallied and Jay Rodriguez headed home three minutes before the break for the equaliser as Mauricio Pochettino's team bagged another point which kept them fifth in the table at the final whistle.

Full report: Pages 2/3

GET IN: Jay Rodriguez celebrates after leveling for Saints.

TERRY PAINE



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NON-LEAGUE



'Explosive' past of Eastleigh star Jamie – pages 26-27

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STOKE CITY 1 SAINTS 1: Poch's men battle

SAINTS FIGHT KEEPER NETS

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It was the fourth fastest goal in Premier League history and came with only Stoke's second touch of the ball.

The freak nature of the goal temporarily shocked Saints but they rallied and Jay Rodriguez headed home three minutes before the break for the equaliser as Mauricio Pochettino's team bagged another point which kept them fifth in the table at the final whistle.

The game got off to the most surreal start as Stoke took the lead after just 12 seconds – through their goalkeeper.

After Saints possession from their kick off the ball was knocked back to Asmir

Adam Leitch

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

Begovic in goal and with only Stoke's second touch of the match he pumped it up field.

It looked utterly harmless with no Stoke player challenging for it.

However, it had caught the wind that was blowing directly towards the Saints end.

Jose Fonte and Dejan Lovren slipped apart to allow the ball to bounce through to Artur Boruc.

The problem was that the Saints keeper was caught out by the bounce.

The Polish stopper was stranded on the penalty spot and watched in horror as it leapt up off the turf and, with the wind behind it, flew over his head and straight into the after its second bounce.

Saints were briefly shaken

and uncharacteristically their composure was gone.

Stoke should have made it 2-0 after nine minutes when a right wing corner was flicked onto Ryan Shawcross.

The centre half was unmarked on the edge of the six yard box, but misjudged his shot and saw the ball deflect off his standing leg and go wide.

Dejan Lovren got the first good opportunity for Saints to equalise four minutes later as he met James Ward-Prowse's corner at the far post.

However, from just a few yards out he wasn't able to direct it on target.

Victor Wanyama was the next to try his luck, turning his man with a quick footed roller-coaster before dragging his

shot from 20 yards wide of the far post.

Saints were struggling to really get their game going against an aggressive Stoke side who were constantly snapping at their heels.

They were still threatening on the break though and Jay Rodriguez had a sight of goal but fired over the bar.

Saints were certainly not out of the game, but that bizarre early setback had, quite understandably, had an impact on them.

That coupled with the fact they were defending against a very strong wind meant they were struggling for their usual composure.

That all changed three minutes before the break.

For almost the first time in the match Saints moved the ball quickly and their counter attack led to an equaliser.

It all started down their right side and quick interplay involving Nathaniel Clyne and Adam Lallana led to Ward-Prowse charging deep into the Stoke half.

He looked up and saw Rodriguez unmarked closing in towards the far post.

Ward-Prowse floated a superb ball over the Stoke defence and onto his head.

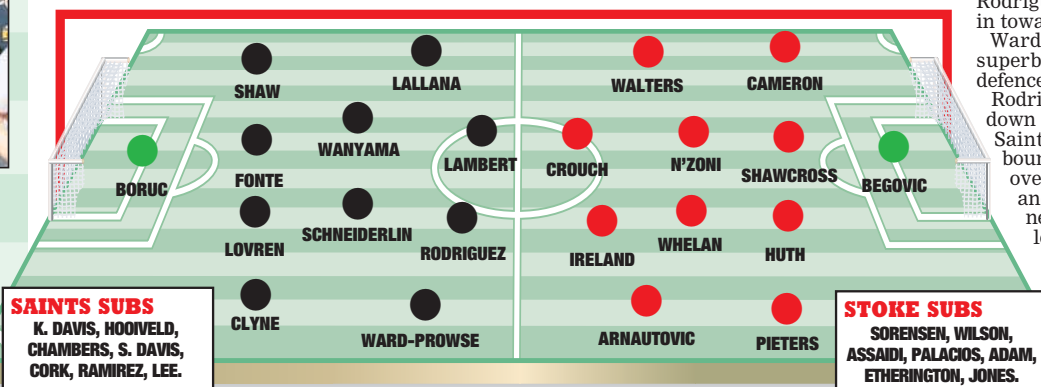
Rodriguez headed it directly down into the turf and it was Saints' turn to get a nice bounce as the ball reared up over the head of Begovic and landed in the far corner to send the teams in level at the break.

Stoke made a half time change with Wilson replacing Palacios and Whelan replacing Glenn.

Jon Walters became the first player in the book for a foul on Lallana.

Boruc was called upon to make a save early in the second period and this time was successful as he dived to his right to push away a strike from Marko Arnautovic from just inside the area.

Saints started to get a grip on



MAURICIO Pochettino named an unchanged side for the trip to Stoke. The Saints boss stuck with the team that defeated Fulham 2-0 the previous weekend, opting to leave fit

TEAM NEWS
again Steven Davis amongst the subs. Dani Osvaldo wasn't quite ready to return from his injury problem and was not

in the matchday squad. Stoke had former Saints striker Peter Crouch up front, with another former St Mary's target man, Kenwyne Jones, on the bench.

INTERVIEW WITH EASTLEIGH'S JAMIE COLLINS: PAGES 26-27

Saints Spotlight

to a draw after surprise opening goal

BACK AFTER THE OPENER



THREE AGAINST ONE: Adam Lallana holds off the attentions of three Stoke defenders.



GOAL: Jay Rodriguez scores Saints' equaliser at Stoke, above, and celebrates, right.



the game after that and had penalty appeals waved away as Clyne's cross was blocked by what Saints believed to be an arm.

They won a free kick just outside the area moments later, which Ward-Prowse whipped narrowly over the bar.

Stoke couldn't seem to quite make their mind whether to go direct into Peter Crouch with the wind holding the ball up or try some shorter build up play and it led to Saints posing the greater threat.

Stoke looked most threatening from set pieces and Shawcross headed over from a corner. They tried to take the initiative on 65 minutes with a second substitution as Oussama Assaidi came on for Stephen Ireland.

Saints responded by introducing Gaston Ramirez for Rodriguez on 69 minutes which gave them a different type of threat.

It was working too as Saints dominated possession and

tried to just craft that one chance they needed against a resilient Stoke backline who kept making the interceptions at the vital time.

Lovren was the first Saints player to receive a caution after catching Walters with a late tackle.

The centre half was next in

action at the other end as he twisted and turned in the area but fired his shot well wide.

Robert Huth picked up a yellow card after body checking Ramirez as he threatened to get through on goal.

Assaidi provided a rare Stoke threat to the Saints goal as he cut in from the left but his shot

drifted harmlessly wide.

There was a bit of confusion at the back for Saints moments later as Boruc dived to his left to save Arnautovic's shot from the edge of the area.

The rebound bobbed up just in front of him and Lovren eventually took emergency action and cleared behind after realising the keeper wasn't going to follow up the save and claim the loose ball.

You felt there could be a winner for Saints and they seemed to sense it too as Geoff Cameron dragged down Shaw as he got down the left and picked up a booking.

Saints had big appeals for another handball penalty turned down as Shawcross blocked a Ward-Prowse free kick in the area.

Ramirez was flagged offside as he tried to finish when one-on-one with Begovic in injury time and the game ended with honours even as Saints recovered from the strangest start.

Boss: No blame on Boruc

MAURICIO Pochettino absolved Artur Boruc of any blame for the freak goal that led to Saints falling behind after just 12 seconds against Stoke.

The Polish keeper could only watch on in horror as a direct punt down the field from his opposite number, former Pompey stopper Asmir Begovic, caught the wind and bounced over his head and into the net.

Saints did rally to find an equaliser through Jay Rodriguez and Boruc's manager was quick to stand up for his keeper.

"These things can happen in football," he said.

"He didn't apologise for anything because he didn't have to apologise for anything.

"We are aware these things can happen in football. I want to highlight that

my team played very well, even after conceding that very unlucky goal and came back and showed resilience, a lot of character and identity.

"We were able to develop how wanted to play and we managed the game over long phases of the entire game.

"I want to congratulate my players, from the goalkeeper to the striker, because I think they did really well."

Speaking of the opening goal he added: "As a manager that's the first time I've had to experience that unlucky moment.

"I think it had to do more than anything with the weather conditions and something completely unexpected but we are more than aware that these things can happen in football."



BATTLE: Rickie Lambert is bundled off the ball.

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ALL TODAY'S RESULTS/LATEST TABLES: PAGE 48

Saints Spotlight



Could a cup win fire Saints to even greater heights?

THE sight of Southampton now looking firmly like a potential top five side and playing some of the best football in this league right now is quite remarkable.

Saints are fast becoming the success story of this season – and rightly feted by the media as a result.

Saturday's win against Fulham saw an astonishing four academy players starting the game, with another on the bench.

English football is currently in something of a slump and much has been made of the lack of homegrown talent in top flight English football.

The way in which Saints have bucked this trend to be a free flowing conveyor belt of English talent is quite simply startling.

Surely, the status of English football can't be that low if a club like Southampton can knock on the door of a top five place with such a young side, top heavy with English talent.

So where do we go from here? The cynic in us will ensure that none of us really enjoy the moment.

But we're in uncharted territory here folks. We're actually quite good.

You don't get to be fifth a third of the way through the season by accident, you're there on merit. Saints are the new flavour of the month and, whilst we know it's only a fleeting, it makes a refreshing change.

It won't last. We will lose, we will get a stuffing and we come down to earth at some stage of the season. What

counts is how we as a club and as fans deal with it.

We're not the next Barcelona and we'd be deluded if we thought we were, but what we can be is the first Southampton FC.

There is nothing set in stone to say that the revolution Nicola Cortese and Mauricio Pochettino are setting in motion isn't the start of something special.

The problem we have in this country is that we refuse to believe that success cannot be achieved without flinging money at it.

There is no place in modern English football for something organic to succeed. It's as if we cannot believe that a team ethic and a game plan based upon hard work cannot succeed over a team of highly paid, highly expensive, big name players.

Who's to say that Southampton FC cannot actually achieve something this season?

A top eight place and a good cup run is very much achievable.

A lot depends on Wednesday's game against Sunderland, win it and all of a sudden you're looking at the possibility of a trip to Wembley.

I've said many times in these pages that Saints' Johnson's Paint Trophy win at Wembley helped jump start our march up the leagues.

Success is addictive, it can make you strive to get more of it.

Here's to another Wembley adventure then...

One way to



GOAL: Stoke City's keeper Asmir Begovic celebrates after scoring his side's first goal and, below, Adam Lallana takes a tumble.



Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

ONE way to beat Saints' pressing game is to get your goalkeeper to score, went the pre-match joke in the Britannia Stadium's press room.

But you had to be there to believe it when Asmir Begovic only went and did just that – within 12 seconds of the kick off!

The Bosnian had the scribes rubbing their eyes in disbelief, frantically searching for the records, when his wind-assisted punt sailed nearly 80 metres before bouncing between Dejan Lovren and Jose Fonte, over Artur Boruc and into the back of the net.

Assuming the ball had been dealt with, Begovic was tending to his belongings beside his goal when Boruc was looking back in horror as the ball rippled the back of his net.

Laughably, the official Opta Twitter page credited the assist to defender Erik Pieters for his nonchalant pass back after Saints had lost the ball, having kicked off.

Pompey fans wasted no time in rubbing it in, Begovic having made his Premier League debut during his days at Fratton Park.

He joined a pantheon of goalscoring goalkeepers that famously includes Peter Shilton (for Leicester City against Saints in October 1967) and is only the fifth custodian to score in the Premier League (after Peter Schmeichel, Tim Howard, Brad Friedel and Paul Robinson).

But to do so after just 12 seconds is truly unique.

Begovic's goal is also the fourth-fastest goal in Premier League history after Ledley King (9.9 seconds v Bradford City), Alan Shearer (10.4 secs v Manchester City) and Mark Viduka (11.1 secs v Charlton).

It was a gift that Stoke manager

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Saints Spotlight

beat Boruc

Mark Hughes would not have envisaged from his former club on the weekend of his 50th birthday.

This game started even more sensationally than Saints' last game at the Britannia had finished, Begovic's one-in-a-million strike as remarkable as Cameron Jerome's last-minute blockbuster in the 3-3 draw against Saints last December.

It is one that will be talked about for many years by the Stoke faithful.

A famous statue depicting Stoke legend Sir Stanley Matthews at his best stands proudly outside the Britannia Stadium, making one wonder how the Wizard of the Dribble might have tried to counter Saints' pressing game.

Begovic's freak strike certainly showed there is more than one way to skin a cat, even if it did not do much for Hughes' mission to rid Stoke of their long-ball tag.

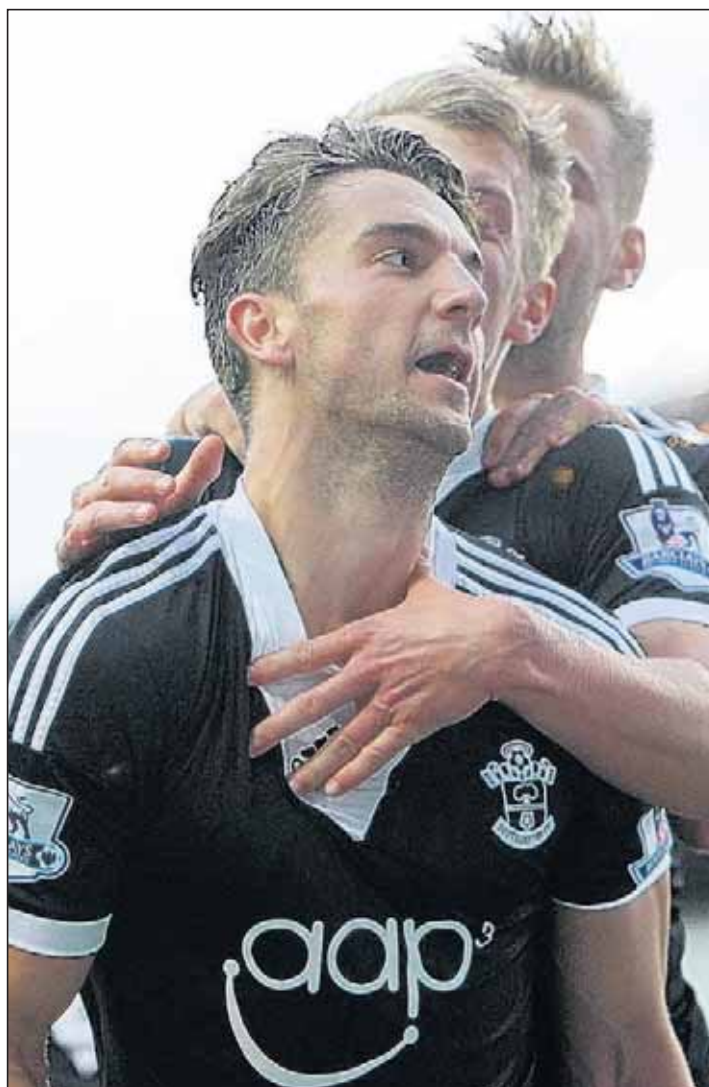
But despite the shock of conceding such a goal so early on, Saints responded well. After Jay Rodriguez's headed equaliser shortly before half-time, they had the chances to record their first top-flight win at Stoke since 1984/85 – the last season they finished in the top five.

Had they done so they would have been up to the dizzy heights of second, temporarily at least. But Stoke City away is never an easy fixture so they can be well pleased to have extended their unbeaten run to eight matches ahead of Hull City's visit next weekend.

When Saints take on Arsenal at the Emirates in their next Premier League away match on November 23, it is not too fanciful to imagine it billed as a top-four contest and a true gauge of their ability to last the course in the higher echelons of English football.

And who would have thought that a few of months ago?

CELEBRATE: Jay Rodriguez is mobbed by his teammates after netting the equaliser against Stoke today.



LEFT: Stoke City boss Mark Hughes expresses his dissatisfaction during his side's game with Saints.



RIGHT: James Ward-Prowse battles with Stoke's Marko Arnautovic.



Howe's men draw a blank for the first time in home loss

CHERRIES failed to score for the first time in the Championship this season when they slumped to a 2-0 defeat against Bolton at Dean Court this afternoon.

Eddie Howe's men were undone by David Ngog's 37th-minute strike for the Trotters and Jermaine Beckford's goal in second half stoppage time – but were also guilty of failing to capitalise on their own attacking endeavours.

Far too often, Howe's players were found wanting in the final third as the visitors racked up only their second league win of a difficult season to ease the pressure on boss Dougie Freedman.

Howe made three changes to the side that lost at Leicester City. Tommy Elphick replaced the suspended Elliott Ward, while Shaun MacDonald came into the starting line-up following

loanee Jack Collison's return to parent club West Ham.

Goalkeeper Lee Camp, signed on a one-month loan from West Brom this week, made his Cherries debut, with Ryan Allsop dropping to the bench.

Camp should have been called into action as early as the fifth minute, but Beckford's looping header missed the target following an inviting ball into the box from Mohamed Kamara. Having smashed the ball into the press box when under pressure from Ryan Fraser moments earlier, Alex Baptiste almost handed the Trotters the lead at the other end, but his left-foot piledriver was beaten away by Camp.

Less than a minute later, Baptiste was at it again, his right-foot effort this time taking a deflection off Elphick for a corner.

Having bossed the opening exchanges, Cherries suddenly found themselves under real pressure. Chung-Yong Lee, twice put on the turf by Simon Francis inside the opening 10 minutes, was a menace down the left-wing for the visitors.

Tokelo Rantie was unlucky not to test Andy Lonergan in the Wanderers goal after 14 minutes, but the South African's shot from just inside the box was blocked by Tim Ream.

Some neat inter-play between Rantie and Lewis Grabban saw the former unleash a left-foot shot, but Lonergan was equal to it. After 17 minutes, Elphick's

header from Steve Cook's long throw flashed narrowly wide.

Fraser then teed-up last week's goalscorer Marc Pugh, but the Lancastrian's right-foot curler flew into the Ted MacDougall stand.

Referee Darren Deadman waved away Cherries' pleas for a penalty kick after 19 minutes, Rantie going down a little easily under a far from robust challenge from Trotters captain Jay Spearing.

Spearing's poor effort when well placed after 25 minutes let Harry Arter off the hook, the Cherries midfielder having gifted the ball to Ngog on the edge of the visitors' penalty area. Ngog set up Spearing, but the former Liverpool man's shot sailed deep into the North Stand.

Grabban showed good strength to get in front of

Baptiste on the half-hour, but his effort towards the near post was beaten away by Lonergan. Pugh's free kick moments later was deflected away.

Then the visitors took the lead. Lee's through ball, after Rantie had given the ball away in midfield, was picked up by Ngog and, having rounded Camp, the Frenchman slotted the ball into the empty

net from a tight angle.

Freedman's men started the brighter after the restart, with Kamara's volley from distance flashing past Camp's post.

Grabban's shot on the turn on 56 minutes was blocked by Matt Mills after more good work from Rantie.

Boss Howe made a double substitution just after the hour in a bid to salvage something, with Brett Pitman replacing Rantie and Wes Thomas coming on for Fraser.

But it made little impact. Cherries' final ball continued to desert them, with Francis and Pugh both guilty of poor delivery when it mattered most.

Pitman's free kick, after Thomas had been felled by Ream, also failed to test Lonergan as a frustrating afternoon wore on. Pugh's drive six minutes from time sailed over the crossbar.

Beckford made no such mistake in stoppage time. Sub Oluwasanmi Odelusi played the former Leeds striker in and he blasted past Camp from inside the box to make the points safe.



EDDIE HOWE

MORE SAINTS REACTION IN MONDAY'S ECHO

Saints Spotlight

Form is giving Jose the blues

CHELSEA manager Jose Mourinho left Tyneside a worried man after seeing Newcastle put the brakes on their Barclays Premier League title challenge.

The Blues dominated for long periods at St James' Park, but were unable to make the pressure tell, and the Magpies took full advantage with second-half goals from Yoan Gouffran and Loic Remy securing a priceless 2-0 victory.

Mourinho's men would have gone top, for a few hours at least, with a victory, and he admitted he was concerned at their lack of a cutting edge.

He said: "Of course, of course I am worried, and I read in previous years, it happened the same.

"They (Chelsea) were successful in cup competitions, they were not successful in the Premier League. They finished 20 points behind, they finished 15 points behind.

"They qualified for the



MOURINHO

Champions League because they won the Champions League, but they finished fifth or sixth in the league.

"Last year in December, they were

not in the race for the title because they were already 20 points behind. This season, we have played five matches away in the Premier League – I know at difficult places to play difficult matches – but we have one victory and we have two defeats.

"Of course it concerns me."

Newcastle found themselves facing a barrage at a rain-soaked St James' as Chelsea started in determined fashion.

However, barring a major 13th-minute escape which saw John Terry and Fernando Torres hit the bar within seconds, keeper Tim Krul was largely unemployed.

The Magpies, whose game-plan, manager Alan Pardew later revealed, had been to sit in and draw the visitors' sting in the wake of a gruelling 120 minutes against Manchester City in mid-week, were more expansive after the break. And they got their reward after 68 minutes when, following a lengthy discussion with his manager, Yohan Cabaye sent an inviting free-kick into the penalty area for Gouffran to dive and head home.

Chelsea immediately launched a fightback, but the game was effectively over a minute from time when Remy converted substitute Vurnon Anita's pass.

POCH'S SAINTS HAVE

SAINTS have shown some great never-say-die spirit in the early months of the 2013/14 season.

Mauricio Pochettino's (pictured below) men have bagged four points from scoring goals in the last five minutes of Premier League encounters.

And, unlike last season, they have yet to let any costly goals in late on.

Saints' four points earned from late goals is already double the amount of points they won from late goals in 2012/13.

Fans should not be surprised, though.



In their entire Premier League history, Saints have banked more points from scoring in the 85th minute on in games than they have lost.

Saints have collected 59 points from scoring in the last five minutes of games (plus stoppage time) since the Premier League was launched in 1992.

They have lost out on 53 points by shipping late goals.

Here, the **Sports Pink** looks back at Saints' dramatic late goals that won them points, and the goals conceded that cost them ...

2013/14

WBA 0 Saints 1

Rickie Lambert maintains his record of never having missed a spot-kick by converting a last-minute penalty at The Hawthorns to get Saints off to a winning start to the season.

Saints 1 Sunderland 1

Jose Fonte heads an 88th minute leveller.

Man Utd 1 Saints 1

Dejan Lovren's header goes in off Adam Lallana to give Saints an 89th minute equaliser at Old Trafford – their first point at the ground since 1999.

Points gained: 4

2012/13

Saints 2 Fulham 2

Jose Fonte heads a 90th minute leveller, two minutes after Keiron Richardson had given Fulham the lead.

Fulham 1 Saints 1

Rickie Lambert's 85th minute penalty leveller gives Saints a point.

Points gained: 2

Saints 2 Man Utd 3

Saints are leading 2-1 going into the 87th minute, but Robin Van Persie completes a dramatic hat-trick to leave Nigel Adkins' men with nothing

Stoke 3 Saints 3

Cameron Jerome fires a long-range 90th minute leveller as Stoke complete their recovery from 1-3 down.



YOUR GOAL OR MINE? Adam Lallana, left, and Dejan Lovren after Saints' late leveller at Old Trafford last month.



DROP BATTLE: Henri Camara slams in a late winner against Norwich in 2005.

Wigan 2 Saints 2

Shaun Maloney grabs a 90th minute equaliser as Saints chuck away two more points late on.

Points lost: 7

2004/05

Saints 3 Blackburn 2

James Beattie's 90th minute penalty gives Saints victory in their second game of the season, but the three points are quickly overshadowed by

Paul Sturrock's departure two days later.

Saints 2 WBA 2

Anders Svensson grabs an 87th minute equaliser as Saints fail to beat one of their fellow strugglers at St Mary's.

Saints 4 Norwich 3

Henri Camara's 88th minute winner breathes fresh life into Saints' bid to avoid relegation.

C Palace 2 Saints 2

Danny Higginbotham pops up with a

90th minute leveller at Selhurst Park as Saints claim a point in the penultimate game of the season.

Points gained: 6

Everton 1 Saints 0

Leon Osman's 88th minute decider ensures Saints leave Goodison Park pointless.

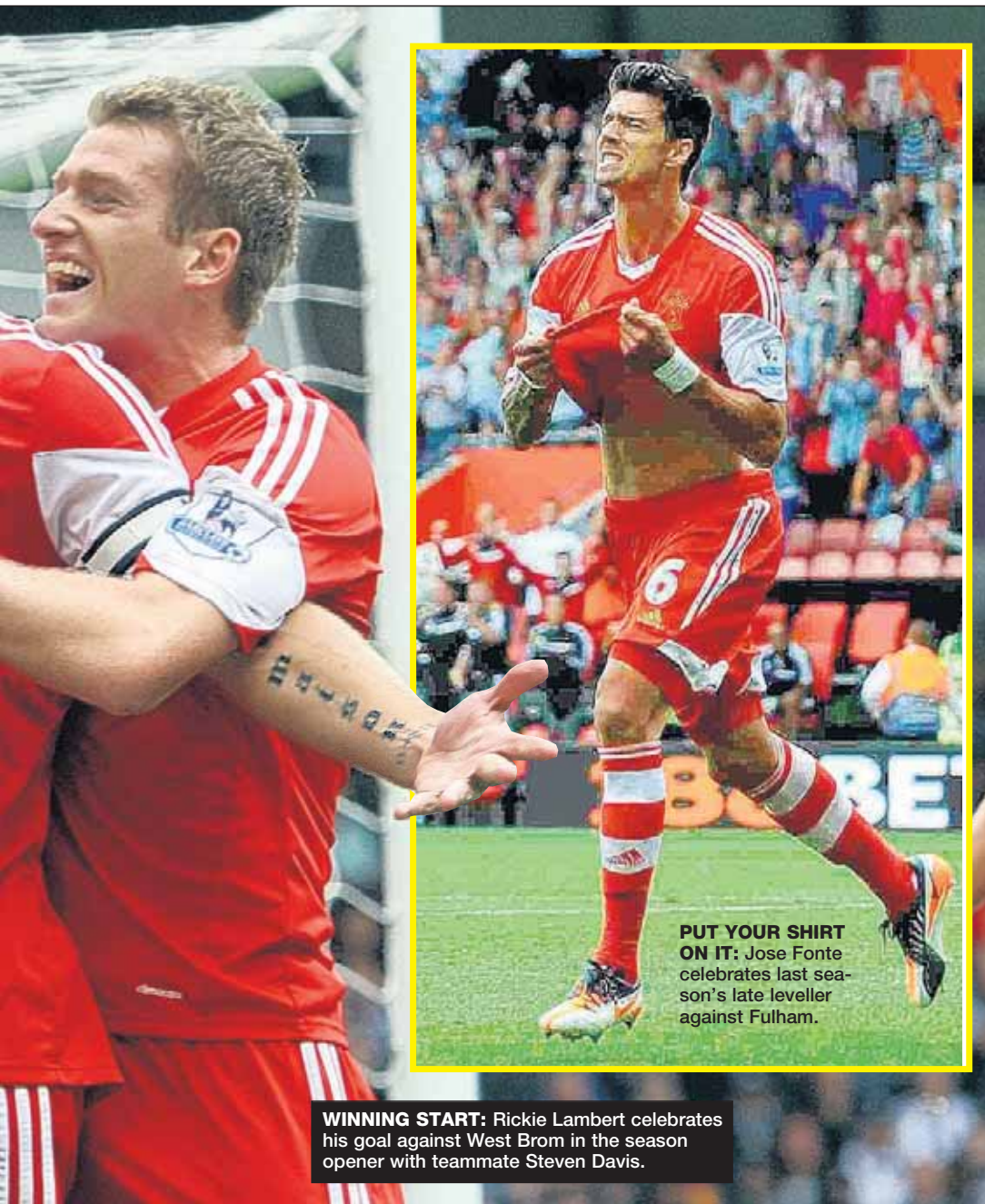
Arsenal 2 Saints 2

Robin Van Persie nets a 90th minute equaliser, after Rory Delap had put Saints in front with two goals in the

LATEST PREMIER LEAGUE STANDINGS - SEE BACK PAGE

Saints Spotlight

THE FINAL WORD ...



PUT YOUR SHIRT ON IT: Jose Fonte celebrates last season's late leveller against Fulham.

WINNING START: Rickie Lambert celebrates his goal against West Brom in the season opener with teammate Steven Davis.

80th and 85th minutes.

Saints 2 Middlesbrough 2
Boro spoil Harry Redknapp's first game in charge of Saints by scoring twice in the last two minutes through a Danny Higginbotham own goal and a Stuart Downing leveller.

Saints 2 Everton 2
After Peter Crouch chooses to shoot rather than run the ball down into a corner, Everton break to equalise in the last minute through Marcus Bent.

Points lost: 7

2003/04

Saints 1 Manchester United 0
James Beattie's 88th minute goal gives Saints their last win over Manchester United.

Saints 3 Charlton 2
Brett Ormerod's 86th minute goal gives Saints a pre-Christmas victory at St Mary's.

Saints 3 Everton 3
Fabrice Fernandes pounces for a 90th minute leveller as Saints come from 1-3 down to grab a point in Steve

Wigley's first game as caretaker boss.

Points gained: 5

Saints 3 Newcastle 3
After Leandre Griffit had put Saints 3-2 up in the 88th minute, Darren Ambrose levels in the 90th – the final act of a thrilling end-of-season encounter.

Points lost: 2

2002/03

West Ham 0 Saints 1

James Beattie's last minute strike gives Saints victory in a Monday night Sky-televised game.

Leeds 1 Saints 1

Fabrice Fernandes rescues a point for Gordon Strachan's battlers at Elland Road.

Saints 2 Sunderland 1

Jo Tessem pops up with a last minute winner as Saints take their points won with late goals total in December 2002 to five.

Fulham 2 Saints 2

Michael Svensson nets a 90th minute leveller after goalkeeper Antti Niemi had gone up for a corner and seen his shot hit the woodwork.

Saints 2 Aston Villa 2

As in the Fulham game, Saints come from 0-2 down to level in the 90th minute – this time through Kevin Davies' last league goal for the club.

Points gained: 7

Tottenham 2 Saints 1

Teddy Sheringham's last minute penalty condemned ten-man Saints, who had seen Michael Svensson sent off, to defeat.

Bolton 1 Saints 1

Yorki Djorkaeff's 90th minute leveller saw Saints drop two more points on the road.

Man United 2 Saints 1

Diego Forlan's 85th minute winner sentenced Saints to defeat at Old Trafford.

Saints 1 Blackburn 1

More 90th minute agony for Saints as Andy Cole levels for 10-man Blackburn.

Everton 2 Saints 1

Tomas Radzinski scores twice in the last seven minutes, including a 90th minute decider, to stun Saints.

Points lost: 7

2001/02

Saints 2 Leicester 2

Marian Pahars' second goal of the game, a spot kick in the 87th minute, rescues a point for Saints.

Sunderland 1 Saints 1

Jo Tessem gives Saints a draw with an 88th minute leveller.

Points gained: 2

Saints 1 Blackburn 2

Craig Hignett scores the winner in the 90th minute.

Saints 0 Leeds 1

More late agony as Lee Bowyer plunders an 89th minute winner for the visitors.

Points lost: 2

● Continued on next page

City slam seven past Canaries

MANUEL Pellegrini's decision to drop Joe Hart had no ill effect on Manchester City's performance as they hammered Norwich 7-0 at the Etihad Stadium.

Pellegrini had opted to hand the goalkeeping duties to Costel Pantilimon following Hart's error against Chelsea last weekend.

But the Romanian had had little to do as a Bradley Johnson own goal and strikes from David Silva, Matija Nastasic and Alvaro Negredo put the hosts four goals to the good at half-time.

Sergio Aguero, Yaya Toure and Edin Dzeko completed the rout after the break to increase the pressure on Canaries boss Chris Hughton.

Manchester United also enjoyed a comfortable win as they secured a 3-1 triumph over Fulham at Craven Cottage which did little to boost Martin Jol's long-term job prospects.

United led 3-0 inside 23 minutes as Antonio Valencia, Robin van Persie and Wayne Rooney all got on the scoresheet for the defending Barclays Premier League champions, before Alex Kacaniklic got a consolation for the hosts.

Goals from Saido Berahino and Gareth McAuley gave West Brom a 2-0 verdict over bottom side Crystal Palace, while West Ham and Aston Villa played out a goal-less draw at Upton Park.



AGUERO

Pompey win thriller

PORTSMOUTH gave the Fratton Park faithful nervous moments after opening up a three-goal lead against Exeter. But they held on to extend their unbeaten League Two run to five matches with a 3-2 win that puts them 16th and within four points of the play-off places.

The win also condemned Exeter to back-to-back defeats for the first time this season.

Pompey struggled to create openings until right on half-time when Ricky Holmes looped a cross straight in.

Ryan Bird headed a second for Portsmouth a few minutes after the break. And Bird netted a 71st minute second to make it 3-0.

Exeter gave themselves hope when Danny Coles scored.

And the Fratton alarm bells were ringing when John O'Flynn pulled back another goal. Exeter could even have levelled but Trevor Carson made a fine save.

READ TERRY PAINE'S EXCLUSIVE COLUMN ON PAGE 11

Saints Spotlight

BOOK of the WEEK

At Speed: My life in the fast lane
By Mark Cavendish

Sports book of the month price: £ 11.40
saving 43% on rrp

THANKS to the kindness of a couple from Somerset, your reviewer had the privilege of watching the breathtaking finale to stage ten of this year's Tour de France from an impossibly perfect vantage point.

It's a long story, but on the most beautifully sunny day, I found myself watching the action from an hotel balcony some 80 feet above St Malo's magnificent promenade overlooking Brittany's Emerald Coast, less than 200 metres from the finish line. We could clearly see the peleton as it snaked through the 'flame rouge' one kilometre from home while following the action on a large screen TV set back from the hotel balcony.

"Cav's going to win this," suggested one of our small party and though we couldn't establish precisely where Mark Cavendish was in the bunch, the observation made perfect sense. After all, the conditions were ideal for him and he was clearly 'in the mix'. All he needed was a timely lead-out and BOOM, he would surely power his way to another explosive sprint finish victory.

However, as the peleton leaders motored towards the line at close to 50mph, so Cav was balked by Tom Veelers, the Dutch lead-out man for Marcel Kittel who was dropping back, just as the 'Manx Missile' attempted to launch his perfectly-timed challenge. The pair collided directly above our balcony; the crowd gasped; Veelers went sprawling across the tarmac, but Cav was distracted, his intense focus momentarily lost – it was enough to cost him the race. He finished third. Kittel won.

This episode tells us much about Mark Cavendish and his will to win. A teenage world track champion in 2005, Commonwealth Games gold medallist a year later and world champion (with Bradley Wiggins) in 2008, his move to road racing has resulted in him becoming the most prolific and exciting sprinter in Tour de France history.

At Speed is described as a "take-no-prisoners" account of his life, which is accurate enough, but it comes only three years since *Boy Racer*, his equally revealing portrayal of life behind the scenes of Le Tour.

Nevertheless, anyone watching Cavendish in St Malo earlier this year will appreciate that he never takes any prisoners, a characteristic evident throughout *At Speed*, an excellent book which crackles with attitude.

Quiz question:

We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of *AT SPEED* to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website (sportsbookofthemonth.com) and answer the following question:

How many Tour de France stages has Mark Cavendish won?

FAIRYTALE ENDING TO

● From previous page

2000/01

Saints 3 Liverpool 3

Saints come from 0-3 down to draw 3-3 thanks to two goals in the last five minutes.

After Marian Pahars had reduced the arrears in the 73rd minute, Tahir El Khalef netted on 85 minutes before Pahars dramatically levelled on 90 minutes.

Saints 3 Chelsea 2

James Beattie's 90th minute winner, his second goal of the game, gave Glenn Hoddle's men victory against his former club.

Sunderland 2 Saints 2

Dean Richards pops up with an 89th minute leveller.

Saints 3 Arsenal 2

Matt Le Tissier famously scores the final league goal at The Dell in the 89th minute.

Points gained: 6

Arsenal 1 Saints 0

Patrick Vieira's 85th minute goal settles the contest at Highbury.

Liverpool 2 Saints 1

Markus Babbel grabs an 86th minute decider at Anfield.

Points lost: 2

1999/2000

Coventry 0 Saints 1

Egil Ostendstad's 85th minute goal settles the opening day encounter against Gordon Strachan's Sky Blues.

Saints 2 West Ham 1

Saints win thanks to an 86th minute own goal from Gary Charles.

Points gained: 4

Saints 3 Derby 3

Mikkel Beck grabs a 90th minute leveller for the Rams at The Dell.

Wimbledon 1 Saints 1

Marcus Gayle rescues a point for the Dons with a 90th minute equaliser.

Leeds 1 Saints 0

Two minutes after Patrick Colleter is sent off, Michael Bridges snatches all three points for Leeds in the 90th minute.

Points lost: 5

1998/99

Saints 3 Blackburn 3

Marian Pahars' 85th minute equaliser completes Saints' recovery from 1-3 down in a crucial relegation encounter at The Dell.

Points gained: 2



MOBBED: Fans spill onto the pitch and surround Matt Le Tissier after the Saints legend had famously scored the final league goal at The Dell to sink Arsenal.



RIGHT: Le Tissier slams in his 89th minute winner.

Saints 3 Middlesbrough 3

Gianluca Festa's 90th minute leveller ensures the spoils are shared at The Dell.

Points lost: 2

1997/98

Liverpool 2 Saints 3

Two goals in the last five minutes from

Egil Ostendstad and David Hirst give Saints a rare win at Anfield.

Saints 2 Newcastle 1

Matt Le Tissier's 85th minute penalty seals victory over the Magpies.

Points gained: 4

Points lost: 0

1996/97

Saints 2 Nottm Forest 2

Matt Le Tissier's 89th minute leveller earns Saints a point.

Derby 1 Saints 1

Ex-Pompey man Darryl Powell gifts Saints a draw with a 90th minute own goal.

Points gained: 2

Liverpool 2 Saints 1

Steve McManaman conjures up an

UP FOR THE CUP: SUNDERLAND v SAINTS BUILD UP AND FULL

Saints Spotlight

SAINTS' DELL DAYS

Sports Quiz



WIN DOUBLE: James Beattie celebrates netting the winner – his second goal of the game – against Chelsea in 2000/01.



PROTEST: Saints fans after Ian Branfoot's side had been pegged back by Tore Andre Flo's 89th minute strike for Sheffield United in October 1993.

89th minute winner for Liverpool.

Coventry 1 Saints 1

Saints drop two points when the Sky Blues' Dion Dublin equalises in the 90th minute.

Blackburn 2 Saints 1

Chris Sutton scores an 87th minute winner for Rovers at Ewood Park.

Points lost: 4

1994/95

Aston Villa 1 Saints 1

Matt Le Tissier rescues a point for Saints in the 89th minute.

Tottenham 1 Saints 2

Matt Le Tissier again pops up in the 89th minute, this time with a winner at White Hart Lane.

Saints 1 Norwich 1

Matt Le Tissier is again the late



RESCUE ACT: Marian Pahars against Blackburn.

hero, converting an 89th minute spot-kick.

Saints 2 Aston Villa 1

Amazingly, it's the Matt Le Tissier late show once more, this time with a 90th minute free kick winner.

Saints 3 Newcastle 1

Saints score three times in the closing stages for a remarkable win. Neil Heaney levels on 86 minutes before Gordon Watson and Neil Shipperley

score in stoppage time.

Points gained: 9

Saints 0 Chelsea 1

Paul Furlong grabs an 89th minute winner.

Saints 2 Manchester City 2

Garry Flitcroft's 88th minute leveller ensures spoils are shared at The Dell.

Norwich 2 Saints 2

Ashley Ward pops up with a 90th minute equaliser for the Canaries.

Points lost: 5

1993/94

Saints 2 Newcastle 1

Matt Le Tissier's 20-yard shot two minutes from time – his second memorable goal of the evening – gave Saints victory.

Norwich 4 Saints 5

A remarkable game at Carrow Road has a last-minute twist when Ken Monkou heads the winner for Saints.

Points gained: 4

Saints 3 Sheffield United 3

Tore Andre Flo's 89th minute strike gave the Blades a point.

Coventry 1 Saints 1

Another 89th minute kick in the teeth for Saints as Phil Babb grabs the leveller.

West Ham 3 Saints 3

Ken Monkou's 90th minute own goal was virtually the last kick of the season.

Points lost: 6

1992/93

Saints 4 Ipswich 3

Matt Le Tissier grabs a 90th minute winner, his second goal of an absorbing contest.

Points gained: 2

Saints 0 Man United 1

Dion Dublin strikes in the 89th minute.

Norwich 1 Saints 0

Mark Robins nets three minutes from time to sentence Ian Branfoot's men to another late loss.

Saints 1 Chelsea 1

Eddie Newton's 88th minute goal gives the visitors a point.

Points lost: 4

Total points gained: 59

Total points lost: 53

- 1 With which team did Sebastian Vettel make his Formula One race debut?
- 2 Which Sky Bet League Two team play home matches at the Crown Ground?
- 3 Peter Gentle was coach at which Super League Club?
- 4 Alan Solomons is head coach at which RaboDirect Pro12 club?
- 5 Which county side play home matches at the Swalec Stadium?
- 6 Who was Jensen Button's team-mate when he won the F1 world drivers' title with Brawn GP in 2009?
- 7 At which club did current Hull boss Steve Bruce begin his managerial career?
- 8 What is the nationality of tennis player Vasek Pospisil?
- 9 Which team holds the record for the most Super Bowl titles with six?
- 10 Who won the 2013 World Superbike Championship?
- 11 Who was the last player to score for Fulham against Manchester United in the Barclays Premier League?
- 12 In which aquatic event did Leon Taylor and Pete Waterfield win Olympic silver in 2004?
- 13 Who did Novak Djokovic beat to win the 2012 ATP World Tour Finals?
- 14 Where will the United States Grand Prix be held?
- 15 Which Australia bowler took a hat-trick on the first day of the opening Ashes Test in Brisbane in November 2010?
- 16 Who did Frank Bruno beat to become a world heavyweight champion in 1995?
- 17 Chris Read is the captain of which county?
- 18 In what year did David Beckham win his final England cap?
- 19 Which of the four golf majors has Phil Mickelson failed to win?
- 20 Who are the reigning NHL Stanley Cup champions?

ANSWERS















1 BMW Sauber; 2 Accrington Stanley; 3 Hull FC; 4 Edinburgh Rugby; 5 Glamorgan; 6 Rubens Barrichello; 7 Sheffield United; 8 Canadian; 9 Pittsburgh Steelers; 10 Tom Sykes; 11. Nemanja Vidic (own goal); 12. 10 metre synchro diving; 13. Roger Federer; 14. Austin, Texas; 15. Peter Siddle; 16. Oliver McCull; 17 Nottinghamshire; 18 2009; 19 US Open; 20 Chicago Blackhawks.

MATCH COVERAGE ONLY IN NEXT WEEK'S DAILY ECHO

Saints Spotlight



SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2013/14

																
AUGUST																
Sat 17	West Brom (A)	W 1-0	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse***	Lallana*	Rodriguez**	Lambert 1	Ramirez*	S Davis**	Cork***
Sat 24	Sunderland (H)	D 1-1	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte 1	Lovren	Shaw*	Wanyama	Schneiderlin**	W-Prowse	Lallana**	Rodriguez	Lambert	Clyne*	Osvaldo**	Ramirez***
Tue 27	Barnsley (CCC 2) . . (A)	W 5-1	K Davis	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Fox	Cork	S Davis 2	Isgrove*	Ramirez 1	Rodriguez** 1	Mayuka*** 1	Rowe*	Reed**	Sinclair***
Sat 31	Norwich (A)	L 0-1	Boruc	Chambers	Fonte	Lovren	Fox	Wanyama	Schneiderlin**	W-Prowse	Osvaldo***	Lallana*	Lambert	Ramirez*	S Davis**	Rodriguez**
SEPTEMBER																
Sun 15	West Ham (H)	D 0-0	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw**	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Rodriguez	Osvaldo	Lallana*	Lambert	W-Prowse*	Chambers**	
Sat 21	Liverpool (A)	W 1-0	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren 1	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Rodriguez**	Osvaldo	Lallana**	Lambert*	S Davis*	W-Prowse**	Cork***
Tues 24	Bristol City (CCC 3) (H)	W 2-0	K Davis	Chambers	Yoshida	Hooiveld 1	Fox	Cork	S Davis***	W-Prowse	Ramirez 1	Do Prado**	Lee*	Rodriguez*	Reed**	Rowe***
Sat 28	Crystal Palace (H)	W 2-0	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	Osvaldo 1	Lallana***	Lambert** 1	W-Prowse*	Rodriguez**	Ramirez***
OCTOBER																
Sat 5	Swansea (H)	W 2-0	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Fox	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis***	Osvaldo*	Lallana 1	Lambert	W-Prowse*	Rodriguez** 1	Do Prado***
Sat 19	Man United (A)	D 1-1	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama***	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	Lallana 1	Rodriguez*	Osvaldo	Lambert*	W-Prowse**	Do Prado***
Sat 26	Fulham (H)	W 2-0	Boruc	Clyne	Fonte	Lovren	Shaw	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse**	Rodriguez* 1	Lallana	Lambert 1	Do Prado*	Cork**	
NOVEMBER																
Sat 2	Stoke (A)															
Wed 6	Sunderland (CCC 4) . (A)															
Sat 9	Hull (H)															
Sat 23	Arsenal (A)															
DECEMBER																
Sun 1	Chelsea (A)															
Wed 4	Aston Villa (H)															
Sat 7	Manchester City . . . (H)															
Sat 14	Newcastle (A)															
Sat 21	Tottenham (H)															
Thu 26	Cardiff (A)															
Sat 28	Everton (A)															
JANUARY																
Wed 1	Chelsea (H)															
Sat 11	West Brom (H)															
Sat 18	Sunderland (A)															
Tue 28	Arsenal (H)															
FEBRUARY																
Sat 1	Fulham (A)															
Sat 8	Stoke (H)															
Tue 11	Hull (A)															
Sat 22	West Ham (A)															
MARCH																
Sat 1	Liverpool (H)															
Sat 8	Crystal Palace (A)															
Sat 15	Norwich (H)															
Sat 22	Tottenham (A)															
Sat 29	Newcastle (H)															
APRIL																
Sat 5	Manchester City . . . (A)															
Sat 12	Cardiff (H)															
Sat 19	Aston Villa (A)															
Sat 26	Everton (H)															
MAY																
Sat 3	Swansea (A)															
Sun 11	Man United (H)															

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
KELVIN DAVIS	0	0	2	0	285(1)	0	JACK CORK	0(3)	0	2	0	98(11)	0	RICKIE LAMBERT	8(1)	3	0	0	194(11)	106
PAULO GAZZANIGA	0	0	0	0	11	0	VICTOR WANYAMA	9	0	0	0	9	0	JAY RODRIGUEZ	6(2)	2	1(1)	1	33(14)	12
ARTUR BORUC	9	0	0	0	30	0	MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	9	0	0	0	176(28)	8	DANI OSVALDO	6(1)	1	0	0	6(1)	1
NATHANIEL CLYNE	6(1)	0	1	0	41(1)	1	ADAM LALLANA	9	2	0	0	209(23)	52	TADANARI LEE	0	0	1	0	8(5)	2
CALUM CHAMBERS	3(1)	0	1	0	4(2)	0	STEVE DAVIS	3(2)	0	2	2	28(13)	4	EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0	0	1	1	3(10)	1
DEJAN LOVREN	9	1	0	0	9	1	JAMES WARD-PROWSE	4(5)	0	1	0	15(17)	1	BILLY SHARP	0	0	0	0	12(6)	10
JOSE FONTE	9	1	1	0	151(3)	13	JASON PUNCHEON	0	0	0	0	70(10)	10	ANDY ROBINSON	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0
JOS HOOIVELD	0	0	1	1	67(3)	9	LLOYD ISGROVE	0	0	1	0	1(1)	0	HARRISON REED	0	0	0(2)	0	0(2)	0
MAYA YOSHIDA	0	0	2	0	35(1)	0	OMAR ROWE	0	0	0(2)	0	0(2)	0							
LUKE SHAW	7(1)	0	0	0	31(6)	0	JAKE SINCLAIR	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0							
DANNY FOX	2	0	2	0	56(10)	1	GASTON RAMIREZ	0(3)	0	2	2	22(9)	7							
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0	GULY DO PRADO	0(3)	0	1	0	78(31)	22							

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



CONFIDENCE, it's a strange old thing. Something that can't be quantified, constantly flitting between one game and the next.

Never to be confused with form, confidence can be shattered in a moment of madness or rediscovered with a moment of magic.

We saw both sides to this fleeting emotion last Sunday – in a moment that could yet have a huge impact on where the Premier League title ends up come May.

In one swift move, Fernando Torres got the goal he so thoroughly deserved, while Joe Hart was left to ponder just where he can go to from here.

Torres had looked every inch the player that Roman Abramovich forked out £50 million for.

Bar one glaring miss, the Spaniard showed pace, power and determination in a performance reminiscent of his heyday at Anfield.

A fit and firing Fernando Torres is something Chelsea fans have dreamed of since his deadline day move, but something that has eluded them in the four seasons since.

His record of 15 league goals in those four aforementioned seasons shows just how far he has fallen. His striker's instinct, so lethal at Liverpool, seemed to have deserted him, replaced with insecurity only heightened by the dearth of goals.

This was not a loss of form, but one of con-

fidence, and one so severe that many regarded him too far gone.

There was an upturn in his performances under the tutelage of Rafa Benitez, who noted his decline in physical conditioning, but he still remained fragile and unsure of his abilities.

He seemed a yard short on pace, a lengthy list of injuries seemingly catching up with him.

That particular theory was well and truly shattered on Sunday. As Gael Clichy squared up to Torres near the touchline, he offered him the line, believing, like so many of us, that he had him for pace.

He didn't.

Torres shifted gears so effortlessly that Clichy looked like he was treading water. He still showed the composure to find a teammate, Andre Schurrle, profiting with a simple tap-in.

What followed was a glimpse of Torres in his peak. Receiving the ball in City's half, he shaped onto his right foot and curled a sublime shot towards the far corner. It was reminiscent of the goal that started his career off in the English game, his debut goal for Liverpool against Sunderland.

The winner was far less

spectacular, but no less significant in the title race. It was a predatory goal, as he preyed on the mistakes of others.

It was just reward for his accomplished performance. And as he wheeled off to the corner to celebrate, Joe Hart made his way back to his goal, cursing and muttering to himself in only the way a goalkeeper can.

It was the latest in a line of error-strewn performances this season from England's number one.

While Torres was given the opportunity to atone for his glaring miss, going in search of the ball, Hart has to wait for his chance to prove his doubters wrong.

His dash off his line was not a move of a man short on confidence. For all of his shortcomings, Hart has never been one to lack in that department.

It did, however, display an over-eagerness to do the right thing, a sign of a keeper under pressure.

It was not the first time this season that Hart's decision-making has been called into question. Against Aston Villa in September he was left

marooned outside his area as Andreas Weimann walked the winner into the net.

It is difficult to determine how long Manuel Pellegrini will persevere with Hart, whose form has reached an all-time low.

He is blessed with a squad of immense depth all over the park, except between the sticks. Costel Pantillimon and Richard Wright are waiting in the wings, but neither will offer Hart the competition he needs to reclaim his former glories.

Pellegrini's handling of the situation could also have dire repercussions for England, who aren't blessed with an abundance of Premier League goalkeepers themselves.

One thing is for certain: Man City cannot afford to continue sacrificing points while they wait around for Hart to regain his form. Action needs to be taken.

In one of the most open title races in years, dropping needless points could prove costly in the greater scheme of things.

While Chelsea continue to build into the season, City have been beset by setback after setback. There is still plenty of football to be played, and it would be foolish to judge the potential of each team on one fixture, but it's fair to say that Chelsea deserve to be considered favourites for the title at present. It's a matter of confidence.

CONTRAST: Joe Hart, left, and Fernando Torres, above, after the game at Chelsea last weekend.



Saints Spotlight

Martinez: It's not all about cash

EVERTON manager Roberto Martinez believes if his side can negotiate the next three months without too many mishaps they will be in a good position to challenge the Premier League's big spenders.

An encouraging start to the season has seen the Toffees take 19 points from nine matches to sit sixth in the table ahead of the weekend's games and still within striking distance of the top.

No-one is suggesting the Spaniard's side are capable of mounting a title challenge but Martinez believes if they can stay in touch with the top four into the new year it gives them a chance of bridging the gap.

Everton kick are at home to Tottenham this Sunday, one of just four clubs currently above them who they will face in the 14 matches until the end of January – although they do play Liverpool twice and go to Manchester United, who are four points behind them.

"In any season you want to be in a strong position in the final third of the season," said Martinez, pictured.



"We have been very pleased with the start of the season and the way the squad is shaping up, now it is a matter of getting through the middle third of the campaign and seeing where that takes us.

"It is in our DNA to win trophies and leagues and we need to use that to our advantage.

"You always work towards that. How long is it going to take? It could be a season, but remember that there is a huge difference between us and the group of teams working at a certain financial level.

"But I always believe in football it is not always about finances. You just need the time to bridge that gap you have.

"We are not financially fighting with the clubs who are spending to win the league or get into the Champions League but I believe with the characters we have at the club we can challenge that but it will take time to bridge the gap."

As the Toffees have not been – and will not be – able to compete on the same financial footing as the top-flight's big six, Martinez knows he must find other ways.

He believes it can be achieved with a solid club structure, sound footballing philosophy and the development of youth.

"It can be done but you need time, you need to be patient and brave as a club and give opportunities to youngsters," he added.

THE FORGOTTEN MEN OF

Simon Carter

simon.carter@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS EDITOR

THERE are a handful of Saints players who remain from the club's darkest days of 2008/09.

The likes of Kelvin Davis, Morgan Schneiderlin and Adam Lallana will no doubt still be able to recall the nightmare of Championship relegation and administration.

They were joined by Rickie Lambert and Jose Fonte the following season, and those men are still playing a key role as Saints find themselves flying high in the Premier League.

But what of those who have played for Saints in the last five years, who either never made it to the promised land with the club, or were jettisoned on reaching the top flight?

What became of them?

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at where a host of ex-Saints are now playing their trade.

Some will be remembered fondly for their contribution to Saints' recovery from the depths of the third division.

And some less so ...

Michail Antonio: Made a big impression during a loan spell from Reading in 2009/10.

Scored three league goals in 28 League 1 outings – half of them from the bench – and a further four in cup ties.

Highlights were an FA Cup strike against Ipswich and a goal in Saints' JPT final victory over Carlisle.

On being released by Reading, the winger joined Sheffield Wednesday.

Is a regular at Hillsborough, recently making his 49th league appearance since a loan spell was made permanent in the summer of 2012.

He has scored ten goals in that time.

Bartosz Bialkowski: Still only 26, the Polish goalkeeper was restricted to just 22 league appearances in six years at St Mary's due to a combination of injuries and Kelvin Davis' great form.

Released in the summer of 2012, Bialkowski joined Notts County and celebrated his 50th league start for the Magpies recently by keeping a clean sheet in a 4-0 home win over Crewe.

Nicholas Bignall: Made three sub appearances for Saints in 2010/11 on loan from Reading.

The 23-year-old striker has only made one league appearance for the Royals in five years, but has been loaned out to eight different clubs.

Danny Butterfield: Released by Saints at the end of last season, the right back made his first start for Exeter City in their 3-1 League 2 Devon derby win against Plymouth last month.



MICHAEL ANTONIO



BARTOSZ BIALKOWSKI



NICHOLAS BIGNALL



DANNY BUTTERFIELD



DAVID CONNOLLY



RYAN DICKSON



ROMAIN GASMI



DUTCH LEAGUE: Steve De Ridder.

Butterfield started the current season with Carlisle, but was released after just a handful of appearances.

The 33-year-old was a regular under Nigel Adkins when Saints won promotion from League 1 in 2010/11, making 34 league appearances.

But he only played ten Championship games the following season as Frazer Richardson emerged as Adkins' first choice right back.

Was loaned out to Bolton in the second half of last season prior to being released.

Richard Chaplow: The combative Saints midfielder played a big role in the club's back to back promotions – making 33 appearances in 2010/11 and another 25 the following term.

But he found his chances hard to come by in the Premier League and

was sent on loan to Millwall in the second half of last season.

After having his St Mary's contract cancelled by mutual consent, Chaplow returned to The New Den to sign for the Lions permanently in the summer.

Has so far made six starts and three sub appearances in the league, but has not appeared since early last month.

David Connolly: Now 36, the former Republic of Ireland international scored some crucial goals for Saints after Alan Pardew brought him to St Mary's in September 2009.

Connolly scored on his debut as a sub in a win at Oldham the following month, and also netted on his home debut a week later against MK Dons.

Released at the end of 2011/12,

Connolly initially was without a club for half a season prior to turning up at Portsmouth in January 2013.

Scored seven goals last season but was unable to save Pompey from their third relegation in four seasons.

Scored four goals in three League 2 games earlier this term before he was sent off for violent conduct in a home loss to Chesterfield and banned for three games.

Has been out for the last few weeks with injury.

Steve De Ridder: The Belgian winger made just five league starts in two seasons at St Mary's, though appeared off the bench 31 times.

After having his contract cancelled by mutual consent in July, De Ridder signed for Dutch top flight club FC Utrecht.

TODAY'S PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS – SEE BACK PAGE

Saints Spotlight

SAINTS' DARKEST DAYS



RYAN DOBLE



OSCAR GOBERN



DEAN HAMMOND



DAN HARDING



MILLWALL MOVE: Richard Chaplow.



TOMMY FORECAST

Scored four times in his first seven starts for the club – netting both goals in wins against Alkmaar (2-1) and Waalwijk (2-0).

Ryan Dickson: Like his three fellow defenders named above, it was no surprise when Saints released Dickson at the end of last season.

The left back appeared in 23 games during Saints' 2010/11 promotion-winning term, but never made another league outing after that.

Loaned out to Yeovil, Leyton Orient and Bradford City during his last two years out of favour at St Mary's, Dickson signed for League 1 club Colchester in the summer after a trial spell with his first club Plymouth came to nothing.

Dickson started off the current season in the first team but was then sidelined by a mystery illness.

Ryan Doble: Former Welsh youth international striker was released by Saints in 2012 after making just one cup appearance for the club.

Joined Shrewsbury but was released again at the end of 2012/13.

Went on trial at home-town club Newport County but turned down the Exiles' offers of a short-term contract in August.

Iago Falque: The 22-year-old midfielder was signed on loan from Tottenham in January 2012.

Only made one league appearance for Saints, though, in a highly forgettable period at St Mary's.

After being loaned out to Spanish Leaguers Almeria last season, Falque is currently on loan at Rayo Vallecano.

Tommy Forecast: Famously made

no senior appearances at all for Saints in five miserable years at St Mary's.

Sent on loan for the whole of last season to Gillingham, Forecast only made one league appearance – and that was due to Gills' No 1 being suspended!

Unsurprisingly released when his ridiculously long Saints contract ended, the one-time Tottenham trainee signed for Chelmsford City.

But he has found life hard even in the Conference South, and was dropped after just a few games of the current season.

Simon Gillett: Is currently out of favour at Nottingham Forest, having played just League Cup ties this season.

The midfielder joined Forest in the summer of 2012, having been signed

by Sean O'Driscoll for the third time in his career.

O'Driscoll has previously signed Gillett during his time as Cherries boss (on loan) and also for Doncaster (after Gillett had been released by Saints in the summer of 2010).

Romain Gasmi: French born of Romanian descent, Gasmi made four forgettable sub appearances in the 2008/09 Championship season.

Is currently playing in Division 1 of the Thai League for Bangkok United.

Oscar Gobern: The 22-year-old midfielder joined Huddersfield in the summer of 2011 after making 21 league appearances for Saints.

Has played in most of the Terriers' Championship games this season.

Dean Hammond: Played a key role in Saints' JPT success and back to back promotions after arriving at St Mary's in a £400,000 switch from Colchester in August 2009.

The central midfielder, 30, was a virtual ever present in those three seasons, but then found himself surplus to requirements upon arriving in the top flight.

Loaned out to former club Brighton for most of last season, Hammond was in the Albion side beaten in the Championship play-off semi-final last term.

Joined Leicester permanently on a two-year contract in August, linking up with ex-Saints boss Nigel Pearson.

Has so far made seven league and cup appearances for the Foxes, six as a sub.

Leicester have won all seven games – six of them by 2-1!

Dan Harding: One of Alan Pardew's first signings for Saints in the summer of 2009, Harding – now 29 – emerged as the club's regular left back when they won the JPT in 2009/10 and promotion the following season.

Also made 20 appearances in 2011/12 when Saints won promotion to the Premier League.

The signing of Danny Fox – plus the emergence of Luke Shaw – meant Harding's top flight chances would be slim in the extreme and he was sold to Nottingham Forest for £350,000 in August 2012.

Starting out as a regular at The City Ground, the return of Billy Davies as manager earlier this year saw him slip out of favour. He has made just four Championship appearances so far this season – all as a sub.

Lee Holmes: Injuries restricted the luckless winger to just 29 league appearances during his four years at Saints, prior to his release at the end of 2011/12.

Upon leaving Saints, Holmes – still only 26 – signed for League 1 Preston, where he has been a regular so far this season.

Continued on next page

Taylor is hoping for hostility

ANDREW Taylor has urged Cardiff's fans to be their 12th man in a south Wales derby he considers to be on a par with Glasgow's Old Firm meetings.

Left-back Taylor was preparing for his first experience of a Cardiff v Swansea clash ahead of arguably the biggest derby in the rivalry's 101-year history on Sunday.

The 27-year-old has previously played in the Tees-Wear derby for Middlesbrough against Sunderland, but admits he has found there to be an extra edge to the build-up to this weekend's contest.

Swansea will start as favourites, but Taylor, pictured below, has called on the Cardiff faithful to create a hostile atmosphere, without allowing emotions to run too high, and help the Bluebirds to a win to match their memorable success against Manchester City.

"I've not experienced a rivalry of this sort before," he said.

"There's a lot of hostility, but I hope that passion does not spill over. We hope to use the atmosphere to our advantage and do something similar to what we did to Manchester City.

"My message to the fans is be passionate, be vocal and get behind the team – but don't overstep the mark. We want a good, entertaining game for the fans and hopefully we win.

"Swansea are a very good footballing team and they like to play the ball on the ground a lot.

"But it is important for us to get three points and we want to give our fans something to cheer about. Hopefully we can have the edge."

Sunday's fixture will be watched by a sell-out crowd and a huge global television audience as the teams meet in the top flight of English football for the first time.

While the fixture has not always enjoyed a prominent status outside of south Wales, Taylor has little hesitation in declaring it the equal of the Celtic v Rangers rivalry in which his manager Malky Mackay previously featured.

"There has been a lot more media spotlight on this game. The fans keep stopping me in the street and telling me what the game means to them," he said.

"This is bigger than three points and there is a lot of pride at stake for both teams. It's a massive game for both sets of supporters.

"I've played in Middlesbrough and Sunderland derbies, but it is nothing compared to this. It's on a par with Celtic and Rangers for me."



Saints Spotlight

Sunderland pair see red in Hull defeat

HULL tuned up for next weekend's trip to St Mary's with a 1-0 home victory over Sunderland.

After a cagey start Hull created the first real chance in the 17th minute, Tom Huddlestone's free-kick finding Curtis Davies whose flicked header narrowly evaded both Jake Livermore and Paul McShane.

In the 25th minute the hosts were in front thanks to Carlos Cuellar's own-goal. John O'Shea was partly responsible, needlessly heading out of play to give Hull a throw-in deep in Sunderland territory. Liam Rosenior took it and when the ball made its way back to him sent in a fizzing near-post cross for Sagbo. He flung a leg at it but it was his marker, Cuellar, who unwittingly headed past Keiren Westwood from a tight angle.

Westwood's afternoon was cut short by injury when McShane clattered him, unintentionally, while looking to get on the end of another Davies header.

The Republic of Ireland keeper attempted to play on but was visibly groggy and was forced to make way for Vito Mannone, a former Hull loanee.

Buoyed by the goal Hull kept possession for the best part of five minutes, with the home fans greeting every touch with a traditional 'Ole'.

Whether or not that contributed to the Black Cats' frustration is hard to know, but they soon betrayed a recklessness that left them two men down at the break.

Lee Cattermole was the first to go, lunging in with studs up on Elmohamady after he had exchanged passes with the busy Meyler.

With five minutes added time for the Westwood injury, Sunderland would have been hoping for no further drama before the break.

But Andrea Dossena ensured that would not be the case when he stamped on Meyler over the top of the ball.

Andre Marriner produced his red card again and the visitors went in reeling.

Gus Poyet made two changes at the break, Johnson and Wes Brown replacing Jozy Altidore and Fabio Borini.

Regardless, Hull dominated possession as expected.

A couple of hopeful efforts sailed over before Livermore played in George Boyd, who bundled past Cuellar before shooting just wide across goal.

With Steven Fletcher frequently the only red and white shirt in the Hull half, Sunderland managed to reach the hour-mark without conceding a second.

Livermore went closer than most with a deflected effort that Mannone reacted well to save but O'Shea and Cuellar were largely doing well against the odds.

Sunderland gave Hull a couple of reminders that their lead was still a slender one – Johnson shooting wide of the upright after a sloppy clearance from Maynor Figueroa and Seb Larsson putting a dangerous free-kick into the side netting.

Bruce made a pair of attacking changes as looked to seal the points, Robert Koren and Nick Proschwitz replacing Meyler and Rosenior, with Elmohamady slotting in at right-back.

But Sunderland should have drawn level with 12 minutes left when Johnson got on the end of a long ball and was denied by Harper from a glorious one-on-one position.

It was a crucial intervention by the former Newcastle man.

Within seconds the ball was at the other end of the pitch, Livermore rattling the post from 20 yards and that was the closest either side came to adding to the score.

THE FORGOTTEN SAINTS

From previous page

Sam Hoskins: The 20-year-old striker is still waiting for his first Yeovil goal this season after six sub appearances for the Championship strugglers.

Only made four sub appearances in cup ties for Saints prior to being another released at the end of 2012/13.

Radhi Jaidi: The former Tunisian international defender was released by Saints at the end of the 2011/12 season.

Made 34 appearances in helping Saints to League 1 promotion 12 months earlier, having been brought to St Mary's by Alan Pardew in September 2009.

Currently has an international development role at St Mary's.

Lloyd James: A regular in Saints' first season in League 1 in 2009/10, the Welsh youth international was surprisingly released by the club at the end of that season.

Subsequently joined Colchester before moving on to Crawley (loan) and Leyton Orient.

James has been an ever present in Orient's superb start to the current League 1 season.

Ollie Lancashire: The 24-year-old centre half made an unhappy return to Hampshire recently as Rochdale were caned 3-0 at Fratton Park.

Lancashire, who was infamously sent off at QPR on his Saints debut in September 2008, joined Dale in the summer after his contract was cancelled at Aldershot Town.

Has so far been an unlucky omen for his clubs – was relegated with Saints in 2008/09, relegated while on loan to Grimsby in 2009/10 and relegated again in 2012/13 with Aldershot.

Zoltan Liptak: Brought in by Mark Wotte on loan from Ujpest, the midfielder made seven appearances for Saints in the 2008/09 Championship season.

Later had a spell with Southend before helping Videoton win the Hungarian title in 2011.

Played for his country in Euro 2012 qualifiers before going on trial at Swansea City. Is currently playing in Hungary for Gyori.

David McGoldrick: The striker was Saints' top scorer with 14 league and cup goals in the club's disastrous 2008/09 Championship season.

With the club facing an uncertain future, McGoldrick returned to his home city of Nottingham to sign for Forest in the summer of 2009 for around £1m.

Never really hit any heights at The City Ground, before scoring 17 goals in an impressive loan spell with League 1 club Coventry in the first half of last season.

Moved to Ipswich on loan last January, a move which became per-



CALLUM MCNISH



JOSEPH MILLS



RADHI JAIDI



FRAZER RICHARDSON



SAM HOSKINS



JON OTSEMOBOR



KAYNE MCLAGGON



£12M MOVE: Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, left.



LYDD JAMES



JACOB MELLIS



ZOLTAN LIPTAK

manent in the summer.

Still only 25, McGoldrick has scored six Championship goals this season and was voted the division's Player of the Month for September.

Kayne McLaggon: Scored for Saints in Mark Wotte's first game in charge at Norwich in January 2009.

After spells with Salisbury and Bristol Rovers, McLaggon is now at Weston-super-Mare in the Skril Conference South.

Callum McNish: The midfielder made his Saints debut in League 1 in 2009/10 before being released the following year.

Like Jake Thomson, he spent an

unsuccessful year at Exeter City and is now playing at Oxford City, who defeated Eastleigh in the FA Cup last month.

Jacob Mellis: The midfielder, now 22, played 11 games for Saints in the first half of the 2009/10 season on loan from Chelsea.

Is now a regular for Championship strugglers Barnsley.

Joseph Mills: The defender was in the Saints starting XI that lifted the JPT Trophy in March 2010 by beating Carlisle at Wembley.

Having left to join Reading the following year, Mills moved again to Burnley when he was released by

Nigel Adkins at the end of last season.

Adkins, ironically, had once signed him on loan from Saints during his time as Scunthorpe boss.

Mills was instantly sent on loan to Oldham, where he has been a regular this season.

Dany N'Guegan: The 26-year-old winger was brought in on loan from Leicester by Nigel Adkins in January 2011.

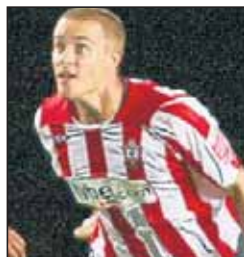
Adkins had previously worked with the player at Scunthorpe.

N'Guegan, who made just six Saints outings in League 1, is currently at Swindon Town.

STOKE v SAINTS REACTION IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Saints Spotlight

- LIFE AFTER ST MARY'S



OLLIE LANCASHIRE



BEN REEVES



JAN-PAUL SAEIJS



MAREK SAGANOWSKI



WORLD CUP GOAL: Tomas Pekhart.



COACHING: Chris Perry.



DAVID MCGOLDRICK



DANY N'GUESSAN



MATT PATERSON



JORDAN ROBERTSON

He joined the Robins last month after leaving Millwall and scored three goals in his first five League 1 games for the Wiltshire club.

Jon Otsemobor: The right back made 19 League 1 appearances for Saints in 2009/10 after signing from their then divisional rivals Norwich City.

Released in the summer of 2010, Otsemobor had two years at Sheffield Wednesday before joining MK Dons. Now 30, he remains a regular at the third tier club.

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain: Unlike some of the others mentioned in this feature, most fans will

know where he is now.

Having made his debut aged 16 in March 2010 in a 5-0 win against Huddersfield as a late sub, the teenager signed for Arsenal in a £12m deal in the summer of 2011.

Has so far made 18 Premier League starts for the Gunners, plus 24 as a sub.

The Portsmouth-born son of former England winger Mark has also won 12 international caps, scoring three goals – including one in a 2-2 draw in Brazil last summer.

Matt Paterson: The 24-year-old striker is best remembered for being sent off against Manchester

United in an FA Cup tie in January 2009.

Joined Southend the following year, as part of the deal that brought Lee Barnard to St Mary's.

After scoring seven League 2 goals for Burton last season, Paterson was released.

He returned to Hampshire to sign for Conference newcomers Aldershot, where he has scored once in 14 league games so far.

Tomas Pekhart: Scored once in nine Championship appearances for Saints in 2008/09 while on loan from Tottenham. Now playing for Nuremberg in the German Bundesliga, the 24-year-old scored

for the Czech Republic in a recent World Cup qualifying win in Malta.

Chris Perry: The defender made his last Saints appearance as a late sub in the JPT final win over Carlisle at Wembley in March 2010.

Now 40, the Londonder is youth team coach at League 2 club Dagenham & Redbridge.

Ben Reeves: The 21-year-old striker scored just once in 13 league and cup outings for Saints – in a 4-1 League Cup win at Stevenage in August 2012 – before being released last summer.

Showed he has a liking for that competition by netting within 13 minutes of his MK Dons debut this season, but has not scored since.

Frazer Richardson: The 30-year-old right back has only missed one Championship game for Middlesbrough this season after being released by Saints at the end of last season.

A regular in the club's Championship promotion season of 2011/12, Richardson lost his place to Nathaniel Clyne at the start of 2012/13 and was restricted to just a handful of Premier League games.

Jordan Robertson: The on-loan Sheffield United striker made an instant impact by scoring a stunning goal on his Saints debut against Norwich at St Mary's in September 2008.

That was to prove his only Saints goal, though.

Was arrested on On Christmas Day 2008 on suspicion of dangerous driving and the following October was sentenced to 32 months in prison for causing death by dangerous driving.

After being released from prison, he spent a year at Scunthorpe United and is now playing in the Romanian top flight for Gaz Metan Medias.

Jan-Paul Saeijs: The Dutch defender brought in by Mark Wotte is best remembered for scoring a stunning free-kick at Watford in April 2009.

The man who played 20 games for Saints in 2008/09 scored both goals in a 2-2 draw that night.

A year later he signed for Dutch League top flight newcomers De Graafschap and announced his retirement from professional football when his contract there expired in May 2012.

Marek Saganowski: The Polish striker made a great impact at St Mary's in the second half of 2006/07 after George Burley signed him on loan from French club Troyes.

Failed to make such an impact on signing permanently for Saints in the summer of 2007.

Aged 34, he is still playing for Legia Warsaw in his native Poland.

Continued on next page

England come on strong to KO Australia

England 20 Australia 13

ENGLAND launched a year described by head coach Stuart Lancaster as "defining" with a spirited 20-13 victory over Australia in their opening QBE International at Twickenham.

Tries from Chris Robshaw – his first in 18 Test appearances – and Owen Farrell overcame a 13-6 interval deficit to dominate the second half of an ugly match.

England's 2003 World Cup-winning squad performed a lap of honour at half-time and while the current squad lack the class of a decade ago, Lancaster will have been impressed that his team found a way to win.

He had stressed all week the need to hit the ground running after being ambushed 20-14 by the Wallabies last autumn and they appeared to have made the start he demanded when some muscular defending forced a penalty that Farrell nudged over.

A loose chip from Joel Tomkins wasted a promising spell and although Farrell levelled the score after Billy Vunipola has strayed offside, England were in control.

The scrum was proving a happy hunting ground, winning a free kick and penalty, but their ascendancy was not mirrored on the scoreboard as Farrell missed two successive penalties.

Ben Alexander was Australia's weak link in July's decisive final Test against the British and Irish Lions and the tighthead prop was enduring another reputation-damaging afternoon in the set piece.

He popped up twice and then it was loose-head James Slipper's turn to be penalised after dropping his knee to the floor.

Farrell missed a third shot at goal from long range, but in the 28th minute England finally made some headway.

For the first time they ran with intent, Billy Vunipola piercing the first line of defence and Mike Brown taking the ball to the line.

Australia were struggling and amid a warning from referee George Clancy that a yellow card would soon be produced, they infringed again and this time Farrell was on target.

The Wallabies' response was brilliant, however, as Folau eased past a missed tackle by Chris Ashton and glided into space with reinforcements arriving quickly at the ensuing breakdown.

Will Genia tried to dummy his way over twice but kept the ball alive and then fed Toomua who, from a standing start five yards out, flattened Billy Twelvetrees and rode a tackle from Chris Robshaw to crash over.

The lead was extended to seven points when Cooper landed the conversion and a penalty and Australia spent half-time grouped together on the pitch.

England began the third quarter with a succession of errors – a simple backs move breaking down, Tomkins feebly slipping off a tackle on Tevita Kuridrani and Marland Yarde penalised for a late block on Adam Ashley-Cooper.

The last offence gave Cooper a chance but he missed the kick, and this time it was England who responded with intent as Yarde was prevented from crossing by a double try-saving tackle from Ashley-Cooper and Kuridrani.

Play stopped as Scott Fardy was carried off on a stretcher with a neck brace fitted following a heavy collision and when it restarted England crossed.

Genia's clearance was charged down by Mako Vunipola into the path of Robshaw who picked up the ball and fell over the line with Farrell converting.

The Saracens fly-half then converted his own try after he had slipped between two Wallabies forwards, although there was a hint of obstruction from Dylan Hartley on Stephen Moore.

The arrival of scrum-half Ben Youngs from the bench had provided an injection of pace and with Cooper missing two penalties, the momentum was with England once again.

Showing character and nous, England closed out the match to retain third place in the world rankings.

GO TO dailyecho.co.uk FOR LIVE SAINTS MATCH UPDATES

Saints Spotlight

EX-SAINTS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

From previous page

Danny Seaborne: Centre half Seaborne contributed to Saints' promotion-winning League 1 season in 2010/11, making 24 appearances.

But a serious head injury suffered outside a Southampton nightclub in August 2012 signalled the beginning of the end of his Saints career.

The north Devonian ended last season on loan at Cherries, and returned to his native West Country in the summer after being released by Saints to sign for Yeovil.

Seaborne, has been an ever present for the Glovers' in their debut Championship season so far.

Rudi Skacel: Now 34, the Czech Republic midfielder was seen as a key piece of George Burley's promotion-winning jigsaw when he signed from Hearts in the summer of 2006.

Skacel departed three years later, having scored just five goals for Saints in 83 appearances.

Had spells back at Hearts and with Dundee United before joining Slavia Prague midway through last season. Was released in the summer and is currently without a club.

Ryan Smith: Winger who made 14 appearances for Saints in 2008/09 before being released at the end of the season.

After playing for Crystal Palace, he had a spell in America with Kansas City before signing for Greek club Skoda Xanthi last December. Still only 26, he was released last summer.

Dale Stephens: The midfielder played six games on loan to Saints towards the end of their 2010/11 League 1 promotion season.

He was on loan at Oldham at the time and, after returning to his parent club, joined Charlton in the summer of 2011. He remains a first choice at The Valley.

Andrew Surman: Currently on a season-long loan to Bournemouth from Norwich City.

The home-grown midfielder made his Saints debut in January 2006, leaving to join Wolves for about £1m in the summer of 2009 when Saints were in administration.

Moved onto Norwich in the summer of 2010 after making just seven Premier League appearances for Wolves.

Now 27, he has made 51 league appearances for the Canaries, scoring seven goals.

Wayne Thomas: Now 34, the centre half scored the winner against Salisbury on his Tamworth debut in a Conference Premier game back in August.

Was sidelined due to injury for the entire 2008/09 season, where Saints missed his experienced.

Played 15 League 1 games in 2009/10 as well as scoring a great goal in Saints' FA Cup win over higher division Ipswich in January 2010.

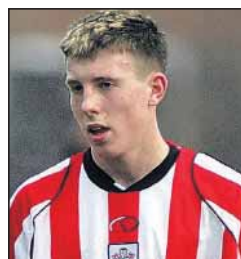
Jake Thomson: Once viewed as a promising Saints starlet, Thomson is



DALE STEPHENS



PAPA WAIGO



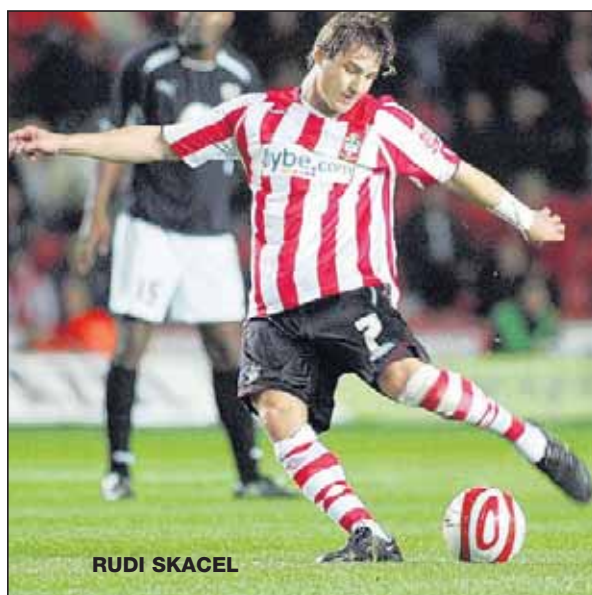
JAMIE WHITE



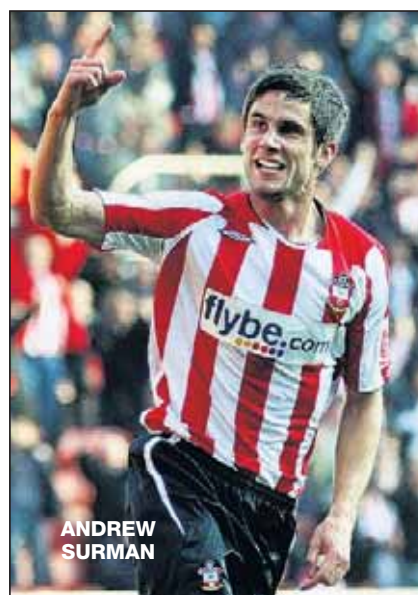
PAUL WOTTON



DANNY SEABORNE



RUDI SKACEL



ANDREW SURMAN



RYAN SMITH



WAYNE THOMAS



NEAL TROTMAN



JAKE THOMSON



BRADLEY WRIGHT-PHILLIPS

currently at Salisbury City.

He has made several sub appearances in the Conference Premier this season and will be hoping to put roots down there after several years of travelling around the non-league scene.

Released by Saints in the summer of 2010, Thomson spent a season at Exeter City before being released again.

Neal Trotman: The giant centre half made 18 appearances for Alan Pardew's Saints in 2009/10 on loan from Preston North End.

After being released by Chesterfield at the end of last season, he signed for Plymouth and has played most of the Pilgrims' games this term.

Scored the club's last minute winner at Mansfield Town last weekend.

Bradley Wright-Phillips: Scored 22 goals in 111 appearances for Saints in three seasons after signing from Manchester City in the summer of 2006.

Released at the end of 2008/09, Wright-Phillips joined Plymouth Argyle and from there moved on Charlton Athletic, where he scored over 20 goals in helping them win promotion from League 1 in 2011/12.

Released by the Addicks at the end of last season, Wright-Phillips is now playing for New York Red Bulls.

Papa Waigo: Added a touch of cosmopolitan glamour when he signed for Saints on loan from Fiorentina shortly into the 2009/10 campaign.

Waigo scored five times in 35 league and cup outings under Alan

Pardew, with his header in the JPT final against Carlisle the undoubted highlight.

On returning to Fiorentina, Waigo was loaned out again to Grosseto and Ascoli before joining United Arab Emirates club Al Wahda in 2011.

The former Senegalese international is currently playing for Effitaq in the Saudi Arabian League.

Jamie White: Still only 23, White is currently playing for Salisbury City in the Conference Premier.

Made his debut for Saints in the ill-fated 2008/09 season before being released.

After a spell in Australia, White returned to Hampshire and belted more than 50 Wessex League goals for champions Winchester in 2011/12.

Signing for Salisbury in the summer of 2012, White netted 26 times as the Wiltshire club won promotion from the Blue Square South last season via the play-offs.

Has not appeared much this season due to a hernia problem.

Paul Wotton: Now 36, Wotton was a regular in Alan Pardew's Saints side of 2009/10 after signing for the club in the summer of 2008.

Left to join Yeovil in January 2011, Wotton later returned to the club where he had spent most of his career, Plymouth Argyle.

After recovering from broken ribs suffered in August, he was in the Argyle starting XI for last month's Devon derby loss at Exeter where another ex-Saints midfielder, 35-year-old Matt Oakley, came on as a sub for the Grecians.

SAINTS v HULL PREVIEW IN FRIDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**



Palace need to move fast

OUT: Former Palace Ian Holloway and, below, his potential successor Tony Pulis.

ANY potential new manager of Crystal Palace has to face up to an interesting dilemma.

Even after this weekend, we are only ten games into the Premier League season.

You would normally say it's early days still, all to play for and such like.

However, such is the lack of belief surrounding the club at the moment you could be forgiven for thinking they were already relegated, rather than just a quarter of the way through the season.

The departure of Ian Holloway was an unusual affair, conducted as it was in public.

But the information that came out of his farewell press conference would have been disturbing for any would-be incumbent of the role.

Most managers don't expect to take charge of teams when things are going well – that's just not how this game works. You are normally thrust into a job when things are going badly.

Sadly for Palace they are going very badly indeed.

To hear Holloway's words about some of the new signings in his squad would set alarm bells ringing immediately, especially as we are still some way from the January transfer window.

If they don't get going by then it might be all but over anyway, certainly they might just have left themselves too much to do.

Should the dressing room be slightly rotten, it's going to take more than a bit of careful management to reverse the problems.

Tony Pulis has been heavily linked with the job and, from a Palace point of view, he seems the perfect candidate.

He might not be a glamour appointment, and his name is now synonymous, fairly or otherwise, with a certain type of football, but he has plenty of experience, including at Premier League level, and knows how to organise teams.

That skill set is exactly what Palace need at this time. They need a strong leader who will instil discipline, both on the pitch and off it.

With Pulis being out of work since leaving Stoke it seems a perfect match from a Palace point of view.

But this is where it gets interesting. Would Pulis, or any manager of that calibre, actually want the job?

There will always be some managers who will be grateful for any job, particularly at that level.

But if you believe your stock is high then would you take Palace on as it currently is?

The talk behind the

scenes in football is that it's a high risk strategy.

Many believe they have little chance of survival no matter who takes charge of them now, and so some high profile bosses won't touch it because they fear what that means.

Managers these days are also very aware of public perception and their own reputations, particularly when it comes to getting future employment.

Even though many people fear for Palace, there is still long enough in the season that you could get tarnished with the brush of having taken them down, not being able to repair the damage despite having almost three quarters of the season to work with.

That will make plenty of managers wary, as it doesn't exactly bode well for their reputations.

Palace are in a hole right now, but they need to do whatever it takes to get in a manager who gives them the best possible chance of survival.

Cardiff head for implosion

AFTER 51 years waiting to get back in the Premier League you might have hoped that Cardiff would be doing everything they could to provide a solid and stable platform to stay there and establish themselves at that level.

Instead, it seems the owners are intent on making it as hard as possible for manager Malky Mackay.

There have been a series of odd goings-on over there with the latest being the replacement of one of Mackay's backroom staff with a largely unknown person who doesn't actually even have a work permit at the moment.

How big a factor that is to Mackay nobody can know for sure.

But the outside perception is of a club that should be celebrating and enjoying a breakthrough season instead undermining themselves.

Club owners should not be afraid to make unpopular decisions if they believe it is correct, but at certain times you need to go very careful before tinkering.

Beckham's a real class act

SAY what you like about David Beckham but he showed a lot of dignity in his response to Alex Ferguson's criticisms of him.

Ferguson did praise Beckham's football talent, but was also pretty candid when talking about his chasing of fame.

Certainly, some of the words he wrote in his autobiography and said in his supporting press conferences could fairly be described as stinging.



Whether they ever really needed to be said or not was well enough covered by Adam Rant last week.

But Beckham, pictured, had the chance to respond and refused to hit back in any way, and instead praised Ferguson and thanked him for everything he had done for him.

It showed a lot of class and dignity, certainly more than his former manager has shown in recent weeks.

Punishment fit the crime?

THERE seems to be untold amounts of publicity related to racism in football at the moment, but you can't help but feel the authorities are only paying lip service to it.

The abuse suffered by Yaya Toure at CSKA Moscow sounded pretty disgusting. The punishment? A partial stadium closure for their next Champions League match.

If the authorities are really serious about stamping out racism they need far tougher punishments than that.

The starting point has to be a full stadium closure, and only another life or two before an outright ban from European competition.

The sanctions have to fit the crime. Currently they do not.



SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL



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2013
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An incident in an Eastleigh v Salisbury match

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Non-league Action

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

SUTTON United survived three-quarters of a tense game with ten men to hold league leaders Eastleigh to a 1-1 Skriff Conference South draw at Gander Green Lane this afternoon.

Ex-Spittfire Mitchell Nelson was sent off after just 23 minutes and the visitors capitalised with a Craig McAllister goal shortly before half-time. But the Us hit back early in the second half with a Craig Dundas penalty.

The Spitfires had lost Jai Reason to a one-match suspension, while Will Evans was named on the bench, having recovered from knee trouble.

Sutton named five ex-Eastleigh players – Anthony Riviere, Mitchell Nelson, Jamie Slabber, Dale Binns and Ali Fuseini – in their starting line-up while another, Damian Scannell, joined former Saint Paul Telfer on the bench.

The first sight of goal took eight minutes arriving – Nelson sending a free kick well over after Eastleigh midfielder Jamie Collins had fouled Craig Dundas some 20 yards out.

With the visitors well-manned at the back, Sutton did their best to play through them, but when the busy Dean McDonald flighted a cross in the direction of target-man Slabber, the flag had already gone up for offside.

A tight, edgy game had yet to burst to life when Sutton were forced into a 19th minute substitution as Jamie Taylor went off injured to be replaced by ex-Spittfire Scannell.

The boredom was lifted in controversial style on 21 minutes when Eastleigh's Stuart Fleetwood went down in agony after being caught by Nelson in front of the visitors' dugout.

The Eastleigh bench went mad and both sets of players squared up to each other as Fleetwood was treated by physio Andy Cook.

After consultation with his linesman, referee Martin Dexter showed Nelson the red card, much to the disgust of the home crowd.

There was more fury from the Gander Green Lane faithful two minutes later when Eastleigh defender Chris Todd went in on Scannell just outside the centre circle. The Us' fans were baying for blood, willing the referee to even the numbers up, but Todd was shown a yellow.

Despite Eastleigh's man

Spitfires are held



OPPORTUNIST:
Craig McAllister put Eastleigh ahead.

advantage, Sutton continued to push forward and Scannell had a half-chance when found by McDonald on the left of the area. But the ex-Eastleigh man got the ball caught under his feet and could only scoop a shot well over.

The Spitfires responded with a couple of Yemi Odubade efforts – one wide and one deflecting into the arms of home keeper Tom Lovelock.

On 37 minutes Dundas ran at Eastleigh to the edge of the area before Todd got across to intercept.

The game finally came to life for the right reason on 40 minutes when Eastleigh snatched the lead on the break.

Collins played the ball out to full-back Michael Green charging down the left. Green ventured into the area and unleashed a low, angled shot which squirmed through keeper Lovelock's legs for **CRAIG McALLISTER** to chase in behind and stab over the line.

Sutton earned a free kick wide on the left in stoppage time when Odubade fouled Binns but McDonald's delivery eluded everyone. Half-time:

Sutton Utd 0 Eastleigh 1

Eastleigh replaced the injured Fleetwood with Evans for the second half and it was to prove a fateful start for the substitute, who slotted in at right-back. With just two minutes gone, Evans went in with a sliding tackle on Scannell as the Sutton man attempted to burst behind him into the left of the area and, as Scannell went down, the referee pointed to the spot.

DUNDAS stepped up and crashed a venomous penalty high to keeper Ross Flitney's left to level on 48 minutes.

With Damian Batt pushed further forward on the right, he picked out McAllister who steadied himself to shoot but fired straight at the keeper.

At times it was easy to forget that Sutton were a man down and they continued to run at

Eastleigh with the burly Dundas a particular handful.

On 68 minutes Spitfires boss Richard Hill made his second substitution, withdrawing Batt, putting on fit-again Dan Spence into the right-back role and pushing Evans into mid-field.

With Eastleigh tackles coming thick and fast, Collins was booked for his challenge on Scannell to further rile the hostile home crowd.

Eastleigh seemed content to defend against the Sutton ten and wait for chances on the break, but they were few and far between. And it was the visitors' goal that came under threat on 77 minutes when Dundas hammered a first-time shot wide from the edge of the box.

With tension mounting, Eastleigh were lucky to escape on 79 minutes when, following an awkward bounce, Sutton's newly introduced sub James Folkes got the better of Dean Beckwith, forcing Flitney to block.

The ball broke to the unmarked Scannell on the left of the area and, with a gaping goal ahead of him, he hit it first time and his shot drifted narrowly past the far post.

Eastleigh responded positively with a tame Evans free kick straight into the defensive wall before Sutton cleared just past their own post with Odubade ready to pounce.

Odubade then burst into space on the right but keeper Lovelock was quickly out to clear.

On 89 minutes Spence's cross led to blocked shots from Ben Strevens and McAllister – the second provoking cries of handball from the Eastleigh contingent in the 691 crowd.

Sutton immediately broke through Binns, but the hard-working Collins got back to get it out for a corner.

As the game entered three frantic minutes of stoppage time, Dundas again used his strength to threaten on the edge of the area, but the tenacious Spence who snuffed out the danger.



OUTNUMBERED: Totton & Eling gang up on Sholing's Kev Brewster. Full report in Monday's Daily Echo.



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Poole cup dream shattered by Staines

A BLISTERING 25-yard strike from Louie Theophanous shattered Poole Town's FA Cup dream on Tuesday as Staines Town held out with nine men for a place in the first round proper.

The visitors' top scorer sent an unstoppable drive flying past Dolphins' keeper Nick Hutchings to settle a

cagey fourth qualifying round replay at Tatnam.

Swans saw their skipper Lewis Ferrell dismissed 14 minutes from time for hauling back ex-AFC Totton winger Jono Davies when clean through on goal.

A second Staines player, Jordan Brown, got his marching orders for a second booking a minute from time, but

Poole just couldn't force an equaliser.

Substitute Jordan Chiedozie – on loan from AFC Bournemouth – spurned three half-chances on his debut – one header bringing a fine save from goalkeeper Kyle Merson.

But that was as good as it got for Poole as Staines held strong for a plum derby tie with

League One Brentford in the first round.

It will have come as a bitter disappointment to the Dolphins who had battled to a goalless draw at Staines on Saturday.

Even Swans boss Marcus Gayle admitted ahead of Monday's first round draw: "We made it into the hat, but I don't know how.

"Kyle Merson was our man-of-the-match and that tells you the story. I think they deserved to win it more than us. They had the better chances and they wanted it more."

Brentford will be familiar foe for Gayle, who made more than 200 appearances during two spells with the Bees as a player.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Parr-fect response

FAREHAM Town bounced back from their 6-0 league humbling at Sholing by booking their place in the second round of the Russell Cotes Cup.

Matt Parr's men proved too strong for Hampshire Premier League side AFC Stoneham, beating them 3-1 at Cams Alders courtesy of Louie Martin, Graham Lindsey and an own goal from a Sam Knight cross.

Ex-Sholing striker James Thomson also found the net for Fareham but was denied by an offside flag.

Colin Bath bagged a late consolation for Stoneham.

Robins are rocked

STOCKBRIDGE had a game to forget at Ringwood Town last Saturday in Sydenhams One.

"When you are 2-0 down inside 12 minutes and down to ten men, you really know it is not going to be your day," admitted joint boss Terry Chapman, below, after his side's 4-2 defeat.

The Robins in fact ended the game with nine men after Daryl Phillips had been sent off for swearing late on. That followed the earlier dismissal of centre-half Liam Hall.

The one consolation for Stockbridge was the enduring class of veteran wideman Ben Thompson.

"Ben was by far the best player on the park," said Chapman. "His crosses and wide play caused all kinds of problems."

Ex-Spitfire on a roll

FORMER Eastleigh loanee Alex Lacey is making his mark at high-riding Skril Premier outfit Luton Town.

The 20-year-old centre-back, who helped the Spitfires into the Conference South play-offs last season, has been keeping veteran defender Anthony Charles out of the Luton Town side.

Charles, who returned to Luton's starting line-up for only the second time this season in last Saturday's 1-0 FA Cup win at Woking, said: "There was an injury to myself which was an opportunity for Lacey who's taken it and done really well."

NOAKES: MY DEBT TO STAGS

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

YOUNG Havant & Waterlooville defender Joe Noakes has expressed his thanks to AFC Totton following a productive two-month loan spell with the Stags.

Noakes – a graduate of Havant's academy system – made a positive impression on Totton boss Steve Riley with some mature performances in central defence.

Before returning to his Skril Conference South parent club, Noakes said: "I would just like to say thank you to AFC Totton for taking me on loan and supporting me the past two months and making me feel very welcome."

"A massive thank you to Steve Riley and (assistant manager) Chris Ferrett for believing in my ability and giving me the vital match time I needed."

"I wish the club the very best in the season and will be following their progress closely."

Totton chairman Andy Straker enjoyed having Noakes around.

Wishing him well, he said: "I for one really enjoyed watching him over the last couple of months and would love to see him return in future."

Team boss Steve Riley agreed: "I really like Joe. He's a big, strong boy with a great left foot and he did a good job for us."

"It's just a shame we had a few games off and he missed out on playing more."

"But he's gone back to Havant and I'm sure he'll do well for them."

Replacing Noakes last Saturday was Jake McCarthy, another young defender brought in on loan from the professional ranks.

Scouted at a Bournemouth soccer school at the age of 12, McCarthy spent four years with the Cherries' centre of excellence before being



FLYING HIGH: Luke Roberts celebrates scoring Totton's second goal against Arlesey Town.

awarded a two-year scholarship at the Goldsands Stadium last year.

The former Blandford School student is now a member of the Cherries youth team and studying a BTEC Diploma in Sport Excellence and a variety of coaching badges.

His arrival at Totton coincided with one of their best performances of the season as the young Stags twice led at home to Arlesey Town before being pegged back to 2-2.

It halted a run of nine straight league and cup defeats for Riley's men, excluding the Russell Cotes Cup success over Hampshire Premier League side Colden Common four days earlier.

Riley said: "Jake's come in and played well alongside Rob Flocks in the centre of defence and was unlucky not to score with a header that hit the bar."

"The two Portsmouth lads did well too. Liam Triggs was strong at left-

back and George Branford is getting matches in the middle of the park. The pace of the game is non-stop and relentless at this level, so it's hard in the middle, but George is coping well."

Totton's other loanee, Southampton's Jamal Branker, followed a man-of-the-match debut against Clevedon in the FA Trophy by setting up one of last Saturday's goals.

After Arlesey's Martel Powell had cancelled out Ryan Hill's superb free-kick, Branker darted in diagonally from the right and sweetly lifted a cross into the path of Luke Roberts, who anticipated well to net a fine flicked header.

Visiting marksman Stuart Farrell completed an afternoon of quality goals with a 69th-minute equaliser, but Riley was delighted with the point – and, above all, Totton's performance.

"I'm chuffed to bits," he smiled. "I saw a real maturity in the team today."

"It was a good, honest point earned with a hard-working team performance."

Two of Totton's teenage loanees – Branford and Branker – scored at Truro City on Tuesday.

It was another highly promising offering by the young Stags who recovered from an early setback to lead 2-1 before Truro turned the tables for a 3-2 victory.

Despite the defeat, Riley was greatly encouraged.

"People thought we might be the whipping boys in this league, but the last two performances have been top drawer," he said.

"The enthusiasm and energy levels of the lads are good and I've nothing but praise for every single one of them."

Young guns fire for Totton

AFC TOTTON'S young guns have completed a remarkable hat-trick by making the FA Youth Cup first round proper for a third season running.

The Stags' under-18 squad is small this season and been hit by key injuries and suspensions.

But that didn't hold them back in the third qualifying round as they brushed aside Aldershot Town 1-0 to book a home tie against Leyton Orient at the Testwood Stadium this Thursday (November 7, 7pm).

Aldershot was arguably the toughest challenge they could have faced at that stage of the competition but, after an even start, it was Totton who created the first chance when Toby Chester headed Zac Moulard's deep

cross just wide.

Josh Jellis forced another opportunity, pulling the ball back for Matt Randell whose shot was blocked.

From then on Aldershot dominated first-half possession, but some spirited Totton defending restricted the north Hampshire side to a few tame efforts from distance while the Stags created a couple more half-chances for Chester and Jellis.

Totton kept their shape but pressed a lot higher in a more evenly contested second half.

Chances were few and far between but, with 30 minutes remaining, Totton made the all-important breakthrough.

Energetic left-back Andy Bridge drove on and scored with a powerful

left-foot shot, beating the 'keeper at his near post.

Totton defended with passion, putting in some big but fair tackles as they protected their lead.

And, despite Aldershot pressure, they could have extended their advantage when, from a Bridge corner, Brad Rowthorne missed his kick in front of goal.

Goalkeeper Ryan Howarth played his part with a smart, late save and, with Totton fans anxiously looking at their watches, there was drama on 90 minutes when the floodlights suddenly went out.

A ten-minute wait followed while the problem was sorted, but the young Stags held their nerve and saw out the

final three minutes of stoppage time.

Under-18s manager Simon Randell said: "The performance was immensely pleasing from a management/coaching perspective with the lads taking on board what was required."

"They put in a display brimming with discipline and team spirit that was on a par, if not better, than last year's heroics in winning the first round tie at AFC Bournemouth."

"The lads and coach Luke Newman deserve a massive amount of credit for, yet again, pulling off a cup upset." AFC Totton under-18s: Ryan Howarth, Andy Bridge, Ben Underwood, Jack Dawkins, Josh Chapman, Matt Hunt, Liam Hammond, Hassen Zahid, Brad Rowthorne, Josh Jellis, Matt Randell, Toby Chester, Zac Moulard, Ben Nimmin, Dillon Smith, Albert Egboh, Billy McFarland.

TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS – SEE BACK PAGE

Non-league Football



NIC TURPIN

Whitchurch Pick up a point

GOALS from Nic Turpin and Alex Pickering gave Whitchurch United a hard-earned point at rain-drenched Hamworthy United on Wednesday.

The Hammers had lost nine on the trot in all competitions, but took an early lead through makeshift striker Greg Horlock.

Whitchurch levelled from a quick counter-attack – Shane Lock's pace taking him clear before his unselfish

squared pass was tucked away by Turpin. Back came Hamworthy to edge in front again when Stefan Penny's 40-yard drive dipped under Tom Hindmarsh's bar.

But the north Hampshire visitors were not done and earned themselves a point when Pickering took advantage of an error by home 'keeper Adam Tong to blast home.

Both sides went for the win as the con-

ditions worsened and Turpin almost found space in the area but was crowded out.

The point kept newly-promoted Whitchurch ninth in the Sydenhams Premier with a highly respectable seven wins and three draws from 15 games.

New in for the Longmeadow club is former Fawley and AFC Totton frontman Leighton Speechley-Price, signed from Andover Town.

Non-league News



Lewis cashes in

THEO Lewis's powerful header booked Salisbury City their place in the FA Cup first round proper.

And Whites' reward for beating Bath City 1-0 last Saturday is a home tie against fellow Skril Conference Premier side Dartford – who saw off Ebbsfleet in Tuesday's fourth qualifying round replay – next Saturday (November 9).

Lewis's, pictured, winner, which boosts the club coffers to the tune of £12,500, came two minutes before the interval.

Elliott Frear whipped in a fizzing cross for the leaping Lewis to firmly despatch into the top corner.

Salisbury boss Mikey Harris reflected: "Being a local derby and away from home, we knew how hard it was going to be. "Bath made it difficult for us, but I'm pleased we managed to keep a clean sheet and progress to the first round proper.

"Theo provided a fantastic finish which settled the outcome.

"The goal was probably the only real bit of quality in the game, but it was enough to see us through.

"We then had to put our bodies on the line and be solid as a defensive unit."



'Port into last eight NEWPORT IoW have booked their place in the last eight of the Sydenhams Wessex League Cup.

Steve Brougham's Islanders wiped out a 2-1 half-time deficit to triumph 4-2 at Andover Town on Tuesday night.

Steve Russell scored Port's first-half opener, leaving Charlie Smeeton and two-goal Iain Seabrook – one a penalty – to finish the job after the break.

Chris Williams and Tom Riddell scored for Andover. Port will return to north Hampshire to face Whitchurch United in the quarter-final on November 26.

Revised quarter-final draw: Whitchurch Utd v Newport IoW (Nov 26), Moneyfields v Petersfield Tn (Nov 6), Sholing v Fareham Tn or Bemerton HH (Nov 26), Blackfield & Langley v Alresford Town (Nov 5).

ACID TEST FOR PORTCHESTER

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

DIRECTOR of football Mick Jenkins believes November will be a telling month for AFC Portchester.

The Wicor Rec side powered up to fourth in the Sydenhams Premier Division on Tuesday with a 2-0 home victory over second-to-bottom Bournemouth Poppies.

But, with today's trip to reigning champions Blackfield & Langley followed by stern league tests against Bemerton Heath Harlequins and Moneyfields, Jenkins says it's time to see what the Portchester boys are really made of.

"We're pleased with the start we've had and we're making good progress, but we've not won anything yet," said the former Havant & Waterlooville boss in the wake of the Poppies game.

"Having a settled side has helped and we've been reasonably consistent, but we've got a tough November coming up and plenty of hard games to come.

"We got a good point at Alresford (a 2-2 draw) but we've not played Blackfield (today) or Sholing yet.

"November will test the squad both ability and strength-wise but the lads will get their heads down and keep doing the right thing.

"To stay in among that top half-dozen teams is a big target for us.

"The lads are training well under Graham Rix (pictured) and Louis Bell and we've got a good work ethic. The mindset is all positive."

Nathan Kirby gave Portchester an 11th minute lead against Poppies following great wing play from man-of-the-match Louie Castles.

And it was left to Jamie Musselwhite to polish off the 2-0 victory with a simple 27th-minute finish after Danny Audin's cross had been spilled by the 'keeper.

"Jamie Musselwhite's been a big plus since he came in, but that's not to say the others haven't contributed," said Jenkins.

"We've been consistent as a team and what's good is that we're shar-



ON TARGET: Jamie Musselwhite, left.

ing the goals around.

"Kirby, Musselwhite and Simon Woods must all be approaching double figures and Lewis Stockford has chipped in with a few too.

"Simon (Woods) has come back with a bang after an early-season loss of form and injury, but it's good that we're not completely reliant on his goals like the club were before."

Aside from their league aspirations, Portchester are still alive and kicking in the FA Vase.

Having scraped through 3-2 at Bradford Town in the last round, they will now host another Western One side, Shepton Mallett, on November 16.

"Historically Wessex League teams like Wimborne, Winchester and AFC Totton have done well in the Vase and it would be nice to be among those peers," said Jenkins. "But we've got a bit of work to do before that happens, that's for sure."

"We've been fortunate in certain games, but we've shown that bit of resilience and consistency which has put us where we are and it sets us up nicely for November."

Vaughan hails Poppies fight

MANAGER Ken Vaughan felt Bournemouth Poppies had emerged with their heads held high following a damage limitation exercise at high-fliers AFC Portchester on Tuesday.

Early goals from Nathan Kirby and Jamie Musselwhite earned the hosts a 2-0 win at Wicor Rec – but Vaughan laid claim to a moral victory for the visitors, **writes NEIL PERRETT.**

Threadbare Poppies were only able to name one substitute, while a goalkeeper crisis saw midfielder playmaker Fawzi Saadi line up between the sticks – wearing a pair of woolly gloves.



Poppies, bidding for a fifth win in seven games, were rocked when first-choice 'keeper Jamie Bray pulled out due to work commitments with Kenny Vaughan and Sean Lillington both

ruled out by injury.

"I took my hat off to Fawzi because he volunteered to go in goal," said manager Vaughan, pictured. "I tried to buy a pair of gloves off one of their goalkeepers when we got there, but they were having none of it. Fortunately, we found some in the second half."

"We got caught with our pants down, but I was chuffed to bits with the way we played. Everybody worked their socks off and, if we'd had a recognised goalkeeper, I think we would have got a draw."

"Even Graham Rix, their manager, congratulated us on our performance."

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Town hopeful over Jordace return

BASINGSTOKE Town are hopeful of having ex-Saints and Eastleigh forward Jordace Holder-Spooner back playing again in the not too distant future.

Holder-Spooner, pictured below, has been out since August after dislocating his shoulder in the 2-1 victory at Concord Rangers.

"The good news is that Jordace has been taking part in non-contact training sessions," confirmed Stoke boss Jason Bristow.

"He is looking very sharp and will be a massive boost to the squad when he is passed fit, hopefully in a few weeks.

"It's important we make sure he is 100 per cent ready because it would only take one slip and he could suffer a setback if he comes back too early."

Basingstoke secured back-to-back Conference South wins for the first time since August with a comprehensive 4-0 victory at struggling Dorchester Town last Saturday. Ex-Eastleigh forward Shaun McAuley got them off to the perfect start, firing home via a deflection on three minutes after the Magpies had failed to deal with Andrew Jenkinson's low ball into the area.

Two Manny Williams goals in as many minutes effectively put the contest beyond Dorchester's reach shortly before half-time.

But Basingstoke weighed in with a fourth with 14 minutes remaining when Neil Barrett powered the ball home from Simon Dunn's low cross.

Magpies never gave up and, in the space of ten remarkable seconds, AFC Bournemouth loanee Brandon Goodship hit the post, Neil Martin's shot was blocked and ex-Saint Jamie Gleeson had an effort kept out by Stoke 'keeper Louis Wells. By then, it was clear it was not destined to be their day.

Town ended the game looking for a fifth with Dorchester keeper Alan Walker-Harris denying Robbie Matthews and then tipping a Barrett shot onto the woodwork.

Bristow summed up: "People might look at the result and say it was only Dorchester, who have got their problems, but it has been a pleasing week for us.

"We stopped the rot last week (with a 1-0 win over Boreham Wood) and today we built on that. At times we looked composed and got into good areas."



BADGERS BRACED FOR FURTHER BASH 'N' GRAB

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

JUST when it looked as if Brockenhurst had restricted their losses to two players, New Forest neighbours Bashley are keen to lure a third out of the Badgers' sett.

Former Brock director of football/manager John Pyatt – now co-boss of Bashley – has been talking to former AFC Totton and Poole Town centre-back Ross Lloyd.

When Pyatt left Grigg Lane for Bashley last month, he was up front with Brock boss Pat McManus and said he intended talking to five Badgers players about the possibility of joining the Calor Southern Premier club's relegation fight.

Two of them – striker Scott Joyce and central defender Dave Marden – accepted the offer, but Warren Kenna, Harry Jeffries and Will Tickle all agreed to stick with Brockenhurst in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

But just when McManus thought Brock had escaped comparatively lightly, Lloyd became a new Bashley target.

"Joyce played for Bashley last Saturday and John (Pyatt) was encouraged by what he saw on the pitch and now he's talking to Ross Lloyd as well, which will be a shame for us if he goes," said McManus.

"They've already taken Dave Marden, but Bashley have lost two other centre-halves, Ian Richardson (now Gosport Borough) and Gary Middleton, which is why they're interested in Ross.

"Ross is still injured at the



BASHLEY TARGET: Brockenhurst's Ross Lloyd, left.

moment with a sprained knee, but he did a bit of light training last week.

"He's got a decision to make now but, fingers crossed, he'll stay with us, recover from his injury and be back in the Brockenhurst fold.

"He's a schoolteacher in Southampton and he's just had a second child, so I'm not sure he could commit to the Southern League."

Pyatt, meanwhile, feels towering former Sholing man Marden will be ideal for Bashley as they look to stop leaking goals.

"We need a more rigid platform

at the back because we are conceding too many," he said.

"Discipline and strength is required in this league and we have to find a system which will give the players stability.

"Our style of football and our approach will suit Dave."

Marwood was handed his Bash debut in place of the injured Sam Boulwood on Tuesday night.

The Foresters produced an encouraging performance against high-riding Chesham, but lost to a single Chris Dillon goal on 14 minutes – a result that sent the visitors top of the Southern Premier.

Joyce exit a blessing in disguise

SCOTT Joyce's move to Bashley may well prove to be a blessing for Brockenhurst's up-and-coming strike talent Lerone 'Rudy' Plummer.

The young former Eastleigh reserves striker, pictured right, had left the Badgers to try his luck with AFC Totton in the Calor Southern Premier Division.

But Plummer – who has gained international honours for the England Learning Disabilities team – has returned to Brock after just two appearances for the Stags.

And, with leading marksman Joyce now off the scene, the pacy

frontrunner is hopeful of getting regular starts for Pat McManus's men in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

All the time former Wimborne and Poole hitman Joyce was at Grigg Lane, Plummer's chances of playing as an out-and-out frontman were strictly limited.

But Joyce's switch to Bashley has left the stage clear for the youngster to show what he can do.

"Rudy's back with us now," McManus confirmed.

"The reason he left was because Joyce was here and he wasn't getting enough playing time.

"We didn't want him to go, but I

understood why he wanted to and at least it wasn't a sideways move to Totton, he went up the pyramid.

"I don't think we'd have got Rudy back if Joyce had still been here because most of the work he did for us before was done from the bench.

"But now he's back, I expect him to be scoring goals pretty soon.

"When Rudy's on his game, there are not many defences that can live with him."

Plummer made his mark on Wednesday, grabbing the only goal of the game for Brock in a 1-0 Sydenhams Premier win at Verwood Town which put them 12th in the table.

Brock send for reinforcements

BROCKENHURST have been busy reinforcing their squad following the dual departure of Scott Joyce and Dave Marden to Bashley.

Forward Lerone 'Rudy' Plummer has returned to Grigg Lane following a brief stint with AFC Totton, Tom Hill and Braiden Hamilton have joined from Bashley and Eastleigh reserves respectively and Jacques Bernard's switch from Christchurch was finalised in time for Wednesday's 1-0 win at Verwood Town.

"Jacques is a wide player who can also play down the middle," explained Brock boss Pat McManus.

"He'd been playing in the Welsh League (for Aberdare Town) prior to going back to Christchurch this season.

"He's not coming here as a stranger. He's friends with Brad Magookin and Harry Jeffries and, with Tom Hill also with us, we're getting a nucleus of former AFC Bournemouth trainees.

"Jacques trained with us after the seven-day notice of approach was up and he really enjoyed it.

It's just a shame that the first game of ours he watched was the Bournemouth Poppies one last Saturday!"

By McManus's own admission, Brock's performance against Poppies was one to forget.

They were well beaten 3-1 by a Bournemouth side who are just beginning to find their feet after an atrocious start to the season.

"The long and the short of it is that we didn't play very well," said McManus.

"We conceded three sloppy goals and we didn't take our chances.

"We were a shadow of what we were the week before (in a 4-1 win at Newport IOW).

Poppies' Martin Warren stunned the Badgers with an 18th-minute opener and Connor Phillips doubled the visitors' lead midway through the second half.

Brock substitute Mark Barker, above, halved the deficit, but Phillips restored Bournemouth's two-goal cushion to secure his side's first back-to-back wins since February.

"We had enough chances to secure a point with Harry Jeffries, Rudy and Will Tickle all hitting the woodwork but, at 2-1, a defensive error gifted them their third goal and put it out of our reach," said McManus.

Hill, an attacking midfielder spent three years at Bashley following his release from AFC Bournemouth, went straight into Brock's starting eleven for that game.

And afterwards ex-Eastleigh reserve player Hamilton also put pen to paper at Grigg Lane.

"Braiden's one for the future," said McManus. "He's a wide player who can also play centre forward.

"He was going to sign for Romsey, but he went to one training session and decided it wasn't for him."



MORE NON-LEAGUE IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Non-league Football



EASTLEIGH RETURN:
Lee Peacock.

Peacock to head Eastleigh youth programme

LEE Peacock has returned to Eastleigh in a full-time capacity to help oversee the Skril Conference South club's youth development programme.

The former Manchester City, Bristol City and Swindon Town striker retired from playing at the end of last season having been with the Spitfires since March 2012.

He has rejoined the club in the dual capacity of manager of Eastleigh's new-look development squad and to oversee the club's youth development programme in conjunction with first-team boss Richard Hill.

In a change of direction, the Spitfires have withdrawn their reserve side from the Wyvern Combination League in favour of arranging development squad games against other professional and

non-League clubs who run similar youth and reserve structures.

A club statement said: "The Wyvern Football Combination is a well organised and competitive competition, but it is thought at present the calibre of player coming through would be better prepared through other avenues."

David Hazelgrove, Eastleigh's head of football in the community, will assist with the development squad.

"David will add much-needed continuity, transferring his duties from the recently withdrawn Wyvern team to the development squad," added the club statement.

"We feel as a club that if we are to maximise our potential in bringing through youth team players, it is essential we progress to playing fixtures against the

highest calibre opposition possible.

"Our vision is to support the technical, tactical, physical, mental lifestyle and welfare development of our all our players.

"This policy will also enable many of these players to train with the first-team squad, which again we see as only beneficial to our youth policy in the long term.

"We will make further announcements in due course regarding future fixtures and development of our youth structure."

First-team boss Richard Hill commented: "I'm far happier now with the structure than I was previously."

Eastleigh's new development squad kicked off with a 3-0 win over Portsmouth in midweek.

Non-league News

Wilson loan move

EASTLEIGH'S 19-year-old striker Sam Wilson has signed for Calor Southern One South & West side Fleet Town on a month's loan.

The West End-based youngster, pictured below, has had restricted opportunities of first-team football since rejoining the Spitfires in the summer after spells with Poole Town and Gosport Borough.

He has made just one competitive start this season, in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup against Whitchurch, and come off the bench three times in Skril Conference South/FA Cup fixtures, scoring once.

Wilson – a former Fulham trialist – made his Fleet debut last Saturday in a 1-0 defeat at Didcot.

His loan spell ends on November 21 but could be extended if both parties agree.

Former Eastleigh reserve and youth team supremo Wayne Mew is assistant manager at Fleet, working alongside ex-Bashley and Salisbury City midfielder Craig Davis.

Fleet are due to visit another of Davis's old clubs, AFC Totton, in the Russell Cotes Cup second round on Tuesday, December 3.

Hawks sign Case

HAVANT & Waterlooville have added former AFC Bournemouth defender Ryan Case, below, to their Skril Conference South squad. Originally from Basingstoke, Case joined the Cherries' academy in 2008 and was handed a 12-month professional contract four years later.

He spent time on loan with New Milton Town and Wimborne Town during his time with the Cherries and had a brief spell

with Sydenhams Premier champions Blackfield & Langley earlier this term.

A versatile right-back/central defender, Case joined Ryman Premier outfit Hampton & Richmond Borough towards the end of August.

STU: I WON'T GIVE UP ON MILLERS

STUART Hussey says he will continue trying to turn Totton & Eling's fortunes around for as long as the club want him to.

Last Saturday's 8-0 defeat at Bemerton Heath Harlequins was a sobering reminder of the huge gulf that exists between the 'haves' and 'have nots' in the Sydenhams Premier Division, **writes WENDY GEE.**

But Hussey, pictured below, has reiterated that he and his co-boss brother Matt will carry on trying to take the club forward small steps at a time.

He said: "When you join a club that's sinking and has no money to pay players, it gives you a different perspective.

"It's a building process and, as long as the club want me to go on, I will.

"It will come right. We will get more players that don't cost money and the professionalism will improve as the weeks go by.

"But it's going to take that bit longer with no money. If you don't pay people you get lower numbers at training because the players put work ahead of training.

"The clubs further up the table have either got consistent managers who have been there over a period of time or the club have realised they've got to do their bit to raise some money. Even some of the mid-table sides are paying now and for us to get where they are will take a bit of time.

"No disrespect to our players, but when you're competing with teams that have got money, you tend to get what's left.

"And while our players are all good on the ball and can play football, they need to improve their consistency and play at their best week in, week out. If not, we're going to get results like last week's at Bemerton."

Describing that landslide defeat as "a total and utter embarrassment of a performance," Hussey added: "The players know they let the club and the management down.

"But we've had a different side out most weeks and it was no coinci-

No ordinary Joe ...

ONE word summed up Ian Chalk's verdict on last Saturday's Joe Sanger-inspired 8-0 trouncing of Totton & Eling – "incredible!"

It was one of those afternoons when everything the Harlequins touched turned to goals with six-shooter Sanger, pictured, leading the way with an astounding double hat-trick.

"It was a quite incredible performance by Joe and the side," marvelled Chalk.

"Everything we did went right.

"Joe's performance was the most complete I have seen at this level.

"He had two cleared off the line and hit the bar too."

At the beginning of last season Sanger temporarily ditched football to concentrate on fishing, but the Harlequins hitman appears to have fallen back in love with the game.

"He is enjoying his football and has a smile on his face," said Chalk.

"When he wants to play, he is unplayable. He was outstanding."

It took until the 20th minute for the Harlequins to break the deadlock when Sanger tapped home Ollie Roe's left-wing cross.

Sanger then made it 2-0 from Kane O'Keefe's pass and completed his hat-trick with the most spectacular goal of the afternoon – an overhead kick from another Roe cross after 35 minutes.

Five minutes later Sanger capitalised on an error by T&E 'keeper Kevin O'Rourke to make it 4-0 at half-time.

After the break, O'Keefe nodded Danny Young's cross into Sanger's path for his fifth and then Young got in on the scoring act, drilling home Steve Whitcher's pass.

Sub Seb Dawes burst away from the halfway line and scored with a deflected shot for number seven, leaving star man Sanger to cap a memorable day with a similarly lengthy run culminating in a curled finish.

dence that when we won back-to-back games recently against Downton and Hamworthy, we had the same team two games running.

"I know they're two of the weaker sides, but they're the ones we have to beat if we want to stay in this division.

"Against Bemerton I felt we'd put out our strongest team for a while, but when it goes wrong for us, it goes really wrong.

"We don't seem to have too many problems beating sides around us, which is why we're not rock-bottom, but against any side mid-table

or above, we struggle to get results."

One way of avoiding another 8-0 drubbing would be to 'park the bus' week after week and concentrate purely on shutting up shop.

Hussey, though, is not prepared to do that, stressing: "In the building process, we will continue to go about playing football the right way.

"Results are important, but if we're not paying money I want to watch a team playing good, passing football."

Six-shooter Joe Sanger bagged six of Harlequins' eight goals last week, supported by one piece from Danny Young and sub Seb Dawes.



TURN BACK TO PAGE 19 FOR TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE ACTION

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Richardson boosts Boro

IAN Richardson could turn out to be Gosport Borough's lucky charm.

The former AFC Totton defender, pictured below, has joined the Privett Park club from Bashley, where he had earned himself the captain's armband.

Richardson made his Gosport debut last Saturday and played his part in a 2-1 win over Chelmsford City which hoisted Alex Pike's men off the foot of the Skrilf Conference South.

Former Eastleigh favourite Jamie Brown opened the scoring with a spectacular bicycle kick.

And it was another of Gosport's new boys, ex-Torquay and Oxford United targetman Tim Sills – also signed from Bashley – who grabbed the all-important second before the break.

Ex-Saints and Winchester City midfielder Tom Dunford provided the cross for 34-year-old Sills to meet with a thumping header.

With tempers beginning to fray, skipper Brown was sent off for a second yellow card with 15 minutes remaining.

Ten-man Borough looked comfortable until three minutes from time when Tom Derry was hauled down by 'keeper Nathan Ashmore and got up to sink the penalty. But Gosport survived a nervy finale to bank three well-deserved points.

Borough's relieved assistant manager Mick Catlin said afterwards: "It was a victory we desperately needed and our two goals were a bit special."

"They both came from good moves and I'm delighted Tim scored one of them. His presence in the side was infectious."

Gosport's game was watched by a 501 crowd at Privett Park and, on a good day for attendances in the Portsmouth area, Havant & Waterlooville attracted 745 for their 1-1 home draw with Eastbourne Borough.

Simon Johnson gave Eastbourne a 36th-minute lead which Perry Ryan quickly cancelled out with a spectacular strike from distance.

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

RIGHTLY or wrongly there has been much speculation this week about Graham Kemp's departure from Winchester City.

But ask the man himself about his reasons for stepping down after just 15 Sydenhams Premier games at the helm and it boils down to one basic fact – he wasn't enjoying it.

"That's not a slur on Winchester but, for me, football is all about enjoyment and it just wasn't there," Kemp confessed.

"Halfway through last season with Christchurch, I said I needed a break, but I stayed on until the end of the season and, straight away, the Winchester job came up.

"I knew within a few weeks that I shouldn't have taken it and when I read Ian Holloway's (pictured below) quotes on why he left Crystal Palace, they might have been written for me.

"I'm jaded and I'm tired and, in retrospect, I should have called it a day at the end of last season.

"I've got a young son, I'm self-employed and it's a 100-mile round trip to Winchester from where I live. And whereas in the old days my life revolved around football, now it's the other way round and when I had to put in a bit extra, it wasn't there.

"Dave (director of football Dave Malone) quite rightly wanted a bit more and I said I hadn't got it in me.

"I had no problem with Dave and no problem with Winchester, but maybe I

expected a bit more from the players and maybe the club expected a bit more from me and collectively we fell a bit short."

While Malone has gone on record saying that City's results under Kemp were never an issue, the manager himself expected better.

City have held their own in the league, winning nine and drawing three of Kemp's 15 games in charge. But they recently suffered knockout blows against Folland Sports in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup and Sholing in the FA Vase and, with Sholing hot favourites to win the league, City could effectively enter the new year with nothing left to play for.

Kemp admitted: "It was hard work building the team and we got off to a good start, but I didn't have that extra bit in me when things started going wrong.

"I was looking for a reaction from the players and it wasn't there. I expected us to do better."

Kemp's departure was mutually agreed with Malone on

When I read Ian Holloway's quotes on why he left Crystal Palace, they might have been written for me

Thursday of last week but, typically of the man, he agreed to stay on and take one last game at Verwood Town while a successor was sought.

The players were informed before the game that he was leaving and it came as no great surprise to Kemp that his reign ended with a 1-0 defeat.

"The Verwood result was disappointing, but it had been coming for a few weeks," he said. "I had a way I wanted us to play and it wasn't working

"I told the players I've got my shortcomings and had maybe made some bad choices, but I also told them they've got to look at themselves.

"If they think they've done everything right and I'm exclusively at fault, then they're a bit deluded.

"The Verwood performance summed it up. They huffed and puffed and they weren't good enough and, if I'd been on the outside looking in, I'd have said a new (managerial) face was needed."

During his six

KEMP: I LEFT WINCHESTER BECAUSE ENJOYMENT HAD GONE

JADED: Graham Kemp.



KNOCKOUT BLOW: Sholing keeper Matt Brown saves a Winchester penalty to the Boatmen last month.

successful seasons at Christchurch, Kemp prided himself on having a tight-knit squad who valued camaraderie over financial reward.

Working with a healthy budget at Winchester was always going to throw up a fresh set of challenges, particularly with players travelling in from all directions.

"It's not anywhere near as enjoyable when you've got one car-load coming in from Andover, one from Southampton and another from

Whereas in the old days my life revolved around football, now the other way round and when I had to put in a bit extra, it wasn't

Bournemouth," he said. "You get your little cliques and after games people would have a very quick drink and a bit of food and then all go off their separate ways.

"I can honestly say I didn't look at my bank account once at Winchester because football for me is all about the enjoyment not money.

NON-LEAGUE STORY TO TELL? CALL WENDY GEE ON 023

Non-league Football



Malone: no falling out with manager

BY HIS own admission Winchester City's director of football Dave Malone can be difficult to work with at times.

But though occasionally abrasive, he is also an open and up-front character and he took exception to those who automatically assumed that last week's departure of manager Graham Kemp was all his doing and part of a pre-planned scheme to get Neil Hards back in charge, **writes WENDY GEE.**

"I'm not easy, I'd be the first to say that, and I do expect a lot from a manager," said the former Eastleigh man. "But Graham left the club due to a combination of issues."

"We both agreed that the commitment required to run our club was probably more than Graham could offer, particularly bearing in mind that he has a young family and a round trip of around 100 miles every time he came to the ground."

"There are other personal and private issues that affect things and we agreed on a friendly basis that it was in the best interests of both Graham and the club that we part company."

Far from pushing Kemp out of the door, Malone would love the former Christchurch boss to have stayed.

But he knew deep down that Kemp was lacking his usual spark.

"It's the biggest disappointment I've ever had with a manager. Kemp's a really decent guy," said Malone.

"I'd never worked with Kemp before, but I'd known him for about 15 years. We'd often spoken about working together but, until this season, it had never been applicable to do so."

"Contrary to what anyone might say, we never had disagreements or rows, we just exchanged views about the practicalities of running the club."

"It's not been easy at Winchester. In many ways I've found the pressure here harder than it was at Eastleigh because every single game you're expected to win and if you drop points it's like the end of the world."



DAVE MALONE

"But I've no bad comments to make about Kempy. He's honest and there was no edge to our discussions, no hidden agenda."

"He wasn't happy, I could tell that, and he didn't have the spark he had before."

I'm not easy, I'd be the first to say that, and I do expect a lot from a manager. But Graham left the club due to a combination of issues

"But Graham was more than happy to be in charge of our game at Verwood last Saturday and that is a true measure of the man and a demonstration of his ethics – something often missing in football."

Although Kemp himself was disappointed in some of City's results and performances, that didn't enter the equation for Malone.

"Did results come into it? Quite the opposite," he said. "The expectation is greater than the reality at

Winchester.

"We started pre-season on June 1, about a month before anyone else, and we started with zero – worse than zero, in fact – with no players and a lot of debt kicking around. We got a lot of players in and were trying to recruit some and get rid of others. I've never known anything like it."

"But we're towards the top of the Wessex League, we got through two rounds of the FA Cup and, realistically, we can't expect more than we've got."

"Leaving by 'mutual consent' is a rubbish expression, but in this case it's absolutely true."

"I was personally responsible for bringing Graham to Winchester and I am bitterly disappointed it has not worked out as we both hoped it might. It's a crying shame."

"Kempy remains a friend of mine and the club's and we will always be grateful to him for the significant part he has played in ensuring the survival of this great club."

Inevitably questions will be asked about the future of those players Kemp brought to Winchester from his old club Christchurch – Danny Thompson, Karl Yelland, Ben Osborne, Russell Cook, Stewart Kearn and Tom Price.

"The players Kemp brought with him are all decent, honest Wessex footballers and the remit is that we expect them to stay," said Malone. "If they take the view that their mentor has gone and they must follow, that's their prerogative, but I genuinely don't want anyone to walk out of the door."

The bulk of those ex-Priory players featured in the Sydenhams Cup game against Sholing on Tuesday – Hards' first game in charge.

Kemp, who has no immediate plans to find a new club, said: "I told the lads to go and see what the new manager had to say. I feel like I've ruined their season for them and, whatever they do now, they've got to do for themselves and not for me."

Non-league News

Vickers has won me over, says Magpies skipper

THE recent return of Ashley Vickers to Dorchester Town raised a few eyebrows at The Avenue Stadium.

Even Magpies skipper Mark Jermyn admits to having felt "sceptical" when Dorchester's former player-manager – who guided Blackfield & Langley to the Sydenhams Premier title last season – answered an SOS call from boss Phil Simkin last month.

With Vickers, pictured below, aged 41 and not having played a competitive match for some time, Jermyn had his doubts he would be up to the task of helping Dorch survive in the Skril Conference South.

But, after playing alongside the ex-Magpies' chief in the last few weeks, Jermyn has seen at first hand just how valuable someone like Vickers can be to the team's cause.

"There were a lot of questions asked about Ash when he came back to the club," said Jermyn. "And I don't mind admitting I was quite sceptical because of his age."

"But what I would say now is that age really doesn't matter if you've got the desire and will to win and you can keep yourself in shape."

"Ash is testament to that and, since he has come on board, he has been one of our better players."

"I've known him for years and know exactly what type of character he is, and he was definitely one of those characters we needed at the time he came back."

"His attitude was never in doubt for me, it was just his age, but he must spend about 23 hours of the day in the gym and has still got hunger for the game."

"You can't buy experience like his and when he is playing with someone like Calvin Brooks, who is still extremely young, it can only be good."

Jermyn has also been pleased with another ex-Blackfield player – AFC Bournemouth loanee Brandon Goodship – since he returned to the Magpies for a second loan spell.

"Being in full-time football at Bournemouth, Brandon is going to be sharp, but one thing I would say about him is that he has come back with a better work ethic," he said.

"I think he found last time that our league is not as easy as some think it is and he has adapted his game second time around."

For all Vickers' enthusiastic input, Dorchester were poor at the back last Saturday and were punished with a 4-0 home defeat by Basingstoke Town.

With Gosport Borough beating Chelmsford City, it plonked the Magpies back to the foot of the Conference South.

Dorch boss Phil Simkin said: "Over the 90 minutes I thought we competed well, but we made individual errors and no amount of planning can cater for that."



ty during City's 1-0 FA Vase loss

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ow it's
en I had
t there

"But everything was hard work for me there. I was driving my van up from Dorset on my own and I wasn't enjoying it."

Asked what the future holds for him now, a rest features high on

Kemp's immediate agenda.

"I won't be at a ground for at least a month," he said. "There's nothing in football for me at the moment and I'm just going to put my feet up."

"If I went off to manage somewhere else tomorrow I'd be cheating that club. I need a rest."

Arnold backs Kemp to bounce back

VERWOOD Town boss Adie Arnold admitted the best result of his managerial career had been tempered by the departure of his opposite number Graham Kemp.

Jack Lovell's first-half strike secured the Potters a memorable 1-0 victory over title hopefuls Winchester City at Potterne Park.

It was Kemp's 15th and final Sydenhams Premier game at the Winchester helm having reached a mutual agreement with director of football Dave Malone last Thursday that he would be standing down.

Arnold, pictured right, who has always enjoyed a good relationship with former Christchurch boss Kemp, said afterwards: "I don't know too many details but, looking at it from the outside, it has been a very difficult job for Graham."

"If you are the manager, you have got to be allowed to manage and I don't think he has been."

"He is a quality manager and will bounce back. I have a lot of respect for him."

Verwood's third win of the league campaign was sealed when Lovell – son of Kemp's good buddy, Jason – outstripped his marker before finishing with aplomb past City 'keeper Stewart Kearn, who later saved a John Webb penalty awarded against Matt Scott.

"It was a tremendous win," said Arnold.

"There are clubs with money and clubs with no money and what we had in our dressing room showed money doesn't always win the day."

"Winchester are a top quality side and, if we had studied their team sheet, it would probably have fright-

ened us to death. But we had team spirit and togetherness and the lads worked their socks off."

"A report on their (Winchester's) website said they had three of four clear-cut chances."

"With the money they're spending, if they can't create three or four clear-cut chances against Verwood, then they have got problems."

"Our game plan was to try to stifle them, to be very solid and to try and hit them on the counter."

"It worked perfectly and the strengths in our team really shone through."

"I have never lost faith in the players and, hopefully, they will start to believe how good they are now."

Verwood, though, came crashing back to earth on Wednesday, beaten 1-0 at home in the league by Brockenhurst.



Non-league Football

QUOTES of the week

"I watched the game so you're asking me not to trust my eyes and ears. I saw it and I heard what was going on and it was going on. Until people actually accept that there is a problem, they're never going to deal with it and if you listen to the Russian authorities, their first response is to deny that it's happened and that is a huge problem in itself. I think the thought of them not getting the World Cup should be the catalyst for change" – Former Charlton midfielder Paul Mortimer believes a World Cup boycott could eventually see real action against racism in football.

"It was always nice to talk to him because he is a good man. But don't forget that he is Scottish so I had to pay for my own ticket! He never gave me my money back!"

Martin Jol, pictured right, reveals the financial logistics of his interview to be Sir Alex Ferguson's number two at Manchester United.



"Arsenal is in my heart and always will be. I don't know if I'll have the opportunity to go back and play there one day, or maybe after football. It's a club that is always going to be there and will always open its doors to me. The club's like a family so, even if it wasn't as a coach, I'm sure they'd give me the chance to play a role" – Cesc Fabregas professes his love for Arsenal just 18 months after securing his dream move away.

"I have a recurring nightmare during Grand Slam finals. Not every time, but a lot of times. I dream that I'm in Australia and I leave the country to go do something in the States, and I don't make it back in time. And Venus has this nightmare, too. Wimbledon I had it a few times. It's very disturbing. It's just the worst dream ever, the worst way to lose a match" – Serena Williams, pictured above, struggles with travel in her sleep.



● Continued on opposite page

CAR EXPLOSION WAS CATALYST FOR

Jamie Collins is another Eastleigh player with a fascinating background. Here he recalls the accident that nearly ended his football dream and his FA Cup fairytale with Havant & Waterlooville before telling **PAUL MCNAMARA** why the current Eastleigh side can go all the way to the Football League.

IT SHOULD be of little surprise that Jamie Collins' strong bond with Havant & Waterlooville didn't warrant any consideration when he opted to sign for local rivals Eastleigh at the close of last season.

After all, the midfielder, who has excelled during his first few months at the Silverlake Stadium, has overcome greater challenges than any negative supporter reaction he might ever encounter from disaffected Hawks.

At the age of nine, Collins was the victim of a horrific freak accident which, with an extra dash of misfortune would have resulted in the amputation of his right leg from the knee downwards. The player, understandably, can recall events of that day with assured clarity.

"I was on the way to watch my dad's friend play cricket at the local park. The game got cancelled, so we went to walk over to the shop and saw a car on fire.

'Lost my leg'

"Being kids, as we were, we stood about watching, from about 40ft away. The car exploded, and the rod that holds the bonnet up shot out of the car and went through my leg. It left me with a big hole in my leg.

"I found out later, that if it had gone in an inch higher, I'd have lost my leg from the knee downwards, so I was lucky in one way, and unlucky in another."

Rather than be cowed by the experience, Collins became imbued with a sense of determination and remarkably, within three years, was training at Watford FC.

"The incident never really stopped me playing sport. If anything, it pushed me on even more to achieve all that I wanted to.

"I couldn't do anything for a good ten months to a year. I was in a specialist burns unit, then going back there once every six weeks for a check-up. I had to wear a stocking that acted as a second skin for nearly two years. It was a long time, as a kid, to not be able to participate in any sport, but it was what I had to do to get better."

Collins' iron will was next tested when, at the age of 20 and having agreed professional terms the previous year, Watford deemed him



FALSE DAWN: Jamie Collins, right, watches on as his shot hits the back of the Oxford City net. Eastleigh went on to lose the FA Cup third qualifying round match 3-2.

surplus to their requirements. A dream that had begun with the coach of his Sunday team arranging a trial at the Hertfordshire club ended with a thud.

"I dropped straight down to the Conference South with Havant & Waterlooville. Dean Holdsworth, who I'd known for a long time, was player coach there, and he told me to come down for the remainder of the season. I had some great times there.

"At the start it was difficult. When I went there, they were struggling at the bottom end of the table. I had three months that season (2004/2005), and at the end of it we managed to stay up."

Collins subsequently joined the

Hawks on a permanent basis, and stayed put until 2009. If the Barking born player expected that move to pull the curtains on any aspirations he had harboured to go into combat with the game's finest players, he was happily proven incorrect.

Anfield

Collins captained Havant & Waterlooville throughout their famous FA Cup run in 2007/2008, which culminated with a 5-2 fifth round defeat in front of more than 42,500 fans at Liverpool's fabled Anfield home.

Ever the competitor, though, it isn't his day on Merseyside which

Collins most fondly recalls from that year's exploits.

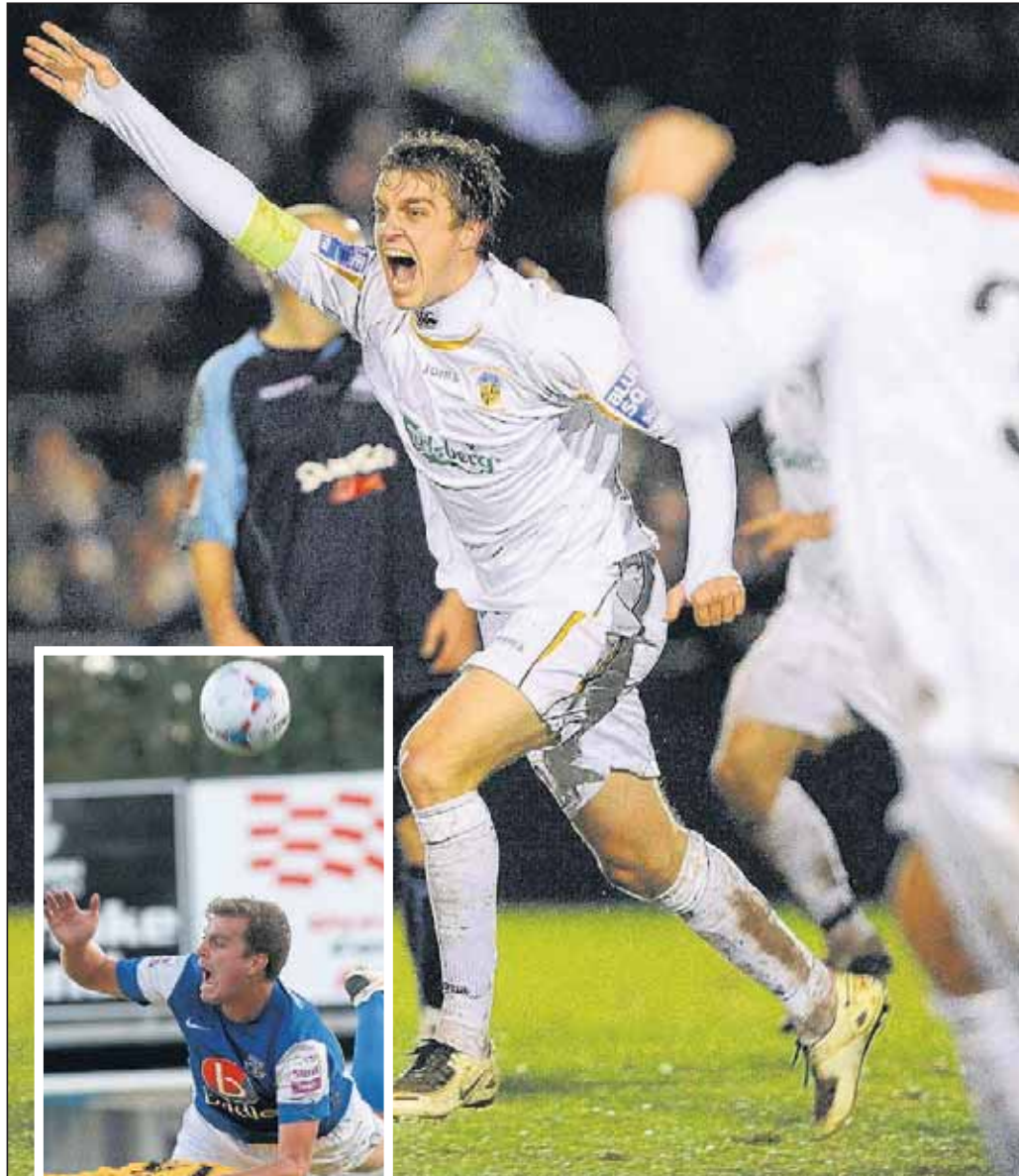
"My favourite game was Swansea City at home (a Roberto Martinez led Swansea team that would go on to end the campaign at the top of League One, and which contained Leon Britton and Angel Rangel, two integral components in the Welsh outfit's current Premier League side). In the away game we were battered and were lucky to come away with a 1-1. But, Swansea at home, on the day we outplayed them and fully deserved to win 4-2.

"We had a full house, 4,500 at West Leigh Park. It was an unbelievable atmosphere, and to know we were going to play Liverpool was the biggest buzz."

SUTTON v EASTLEIGH COVERAGE IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Non-league Football

MY FOOTBALL CAREER – COLLINS



FAVOURITE GAME: Jamie Collins fires Havant into a 2-0 lead against Swansea City in the FA Cup and, inset, in combative mood for Eastleigh.

Despite those electrifying days elsewhere in Hampshire, when Richard Hill, the manager at Eastleigh, offered Collins the chance to join the Spitfires' promotion tilt, there wasn't a moment's hesitation.

"No, I didn't even think about it. I played for Newport County in this league and, as it turned out, we clinched the league title playing against Havant & Waterlooville. I was also at Hampton & Richmond Borough for a little while and played against Havant there, so I think I was away long enough for it not to make any real difference.

"I don't think it would have made a difference (to his decision to sign for Eastleigh) even if I'd left and

come straight here. It might have upset the fans, but as a player you have to do what is best for you."

As Hill's first capture of the close season, Collins was destined to be one of the new boys when the squad gathered for their first day back at work on July 1 – a scenario that he admits is guaranteed to send a few butterflies fluttering in the stomach.

World Cup

"I think no matter where you are that's the case (being nervous on the first day in a job). I knew Glen (Southam) from when he came on trial at Aldershot. I'd played with Toddy (Chris Todd) at two previous

clubs (Newport and Forest Green Rovers). I'd also actually been to the World Cup in Germany with Dean Beckwith to watch the England v Portugal match. It was a trip organised by a mutual friend. It was funny seeing him again.

"But, no matter how many lads you know, coming into a new club on that first day is a little bit nerve-racking. The lads made me feel welcome straight away, though, so it's easy to come in and be yourself."

Having been a key part of the Newport side which ran away with the Conference South title in 2010, accruing 103 points (28 more than nearest challengers Dover Athletic), scoring 93 goals, and losing only three matches in the

process, Collins is perfectly placed to judge whether his current club have what it takes to achieve their season's aim – namely, promotion into the Conference Premier.

"I think, player for player, the lads here are probably, on paper, better than the ones at Newport. As the season's gone on we've developed a great team spirit. We've got a very good team for this level."

Collins, however, does agree that the league in which he is now playing contains more quality than the one that he won with the Exiles.

"I think so. We lost three games over the whole season at Newport. We went 64 games at home unbeaten. It was either, we were that good, or other teams were poor. It was probably a bit of both.

"Now, if you look at Sutton United, they're a really good team, Ebbsfleet United have strengthened, Dover are a good side, and Bishop's Cleeve are flying at the moment, but if we carry on the way we are we'll be there or thereabouts at the end."

The Spitfires have suffered one major blow this season – an FA Cup third qualifying round defeat at the hands of lowly Conference North club Oxford City. Relentlessly positive, Collins suggests that Eastleigh's cup elimination could yet be a blessing.

"I think it works in two ways. When we went on the cup run at Havant, we missed out on the play-offs by two points. Would you have taken the play-offs over a cup run? Across a season you might have done, I don't know."

League football

"We were extremely disappointed to lose (against Oxford). We played OK and should have got something out of the game, but they had three shots and scored three goals. From our point of view it's disappointing, but they've done well."

With that blip confronted in the forthright manner of one of his rattling on-field tackles, there are further words of praise for his teammates, and a confirmation of the personal ambition that burns as fiercely as it ever has.

"I would love to play League football again. If you ask anyone where they want to play, it's in the League. If you put this team we've got now in the League, and I'm not just saying it because I'm here, I don't think we'd struggle. I think we'd do all right."

"Having played in the League with Aldershot (between August 2011 and January 2012), I think this team would stay up comfortably. If we can do well this season, you look at the teams that have been promoted from this league into the Conference Premier, they typically do well. There's no reason why, if we went up, we couldn't be up there again next year."

Wise words, spoken by a wholly impressive individual.

Follow me on twitter @mcnamara_sport

QUOTES of the week

"Perhaps you think I am a ruthless parasite sucking the lifeblood out of the world and out of football! The Godfather of the FIFA gravy train! An out-of-touch, heartless schmoozer! There are not many names that the media haven't thrown at me in the last few years. You would have to have a heart of stone for it not to hurt" – FIFA president Sepp Blatter addresses perceptions of his public image in a prepared speech at the Oxford Union.

"Steven is a top, top, top, top, top player. Jordan was outstanding. Athletically he was very good and he is getting better all the time tactically" – Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers cannot resist a joke at the expense of Sir Alex Ferguson after his criticism of Steven Gerrard's quality and Jordan Henderson's physical attributes in his autobiography.

"To join people like that – Michael, Fangio, Prost – is very difficult to put into perspective. I'm way too young to understand what it means. I might be 60 one day, maybe then I will understand but nobody will care any more" –



Sebastian Vettel, above, on joining Michael Schumacher, Juan Manuel Fangio and Alain Prost as a four-time Formula One world champion.

"They've got better players than us, let's be honest" – Hull manager Steve Bruce offers a simple assessment ahead of his side's league and cup double-header against Tottenham.

"Chelsea is guilty because I want to buy a season ticket for my son and they give a season ticket for my son behind the opponents' dugout. They have to give my kid tickets behind my dugout. I promise that I went for him. But this is the drama of the last minute. Last year I beat Man City in the last minute in Madrid, I slid on my knees, I destroyed my trousers. I lost in the last minute against Bayern Munich, somebody put a knife in my back. This is emotion of the game. If they believe that my son is there, great. If they don't believe, I apologise if they feel that I did something wrong" – Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho defends his decision to leap into the crowd after Fernando Torres' last-gasp winner against Manchester City.

DREW SMITH LEAGUE ROUND-UP – SEE PAGE 32

Who are Ya?

Southampton University

Captain's view

Karl Stein-Bosse, goalkeeper: New recruit, making his SUFC debut after impressing in training.

Matt Hodgson, right back: Possibly the slowest man to ever claim he run 100 metres in sub 11 seconds. Had a solid start to life at SUFC.

Matt Cole, centre back: One of the quietest boys at the club; defensively solid and reliable on the ball.

Alex Gottwald, centre back: At 26, Alex can be considered somewhat as the 'Grandpa' of SUFC although he still has a spring in his step. Surely one of the scariest members of the club resembles something of a German terminator.

Sam Bashua, Centre back: Self named 'Solid Sam', lives up to his name defensively speaking although he is probably the worst finisher in club from five yards.

Mike Medic, right midfield: Deceptively quick, probably one of the fittest at the club. Law student with the personality to match.

Tudor Siminic, centre midfield: Another new recruit in SUFC's attempt to go International. Originates from Romania although the club are yet to see a Park Ji Sung type commercial effect.

Dan McDonnell, centre midfield: Tough tackling midfielder who covers a lot of ground as well as creating a fair amount of chances. An even poorer man's Lee Cattermole.

Ed Metzger, centre midfield/centre back: Utility man, who tries his hand at literally every position in the game. More of an athlete than a footballer, he's built like a horse and resembles Danny Welbeck.

Matt Edmonton, left midfield: Very talented footballer – often ignores my over-lapping runs. Greedy but warranted.

Felix Klinkhammer, striker: Another German import new to the club this season. Can play in off the left or right flank as well as up front with a similar scoring record to Emile Heskey.

Dimitri Lekkas, striker: Incredibly laid back, SUFC's very own Fernando Torres – build up play is excellent, rarely scores but, when he does, he'll get a hat trick.

Captain: Who are ya
Name: Liam Hagan

Age: 20

Where

from: (which part of Southampton)

Highfield

Occupation:

Student

Who you support:

Queen's Park Rangers

Favourite player: Like trying to pick who's the least worst but Joey Barton gets my vote.

Best footballing moment (playing or watching): Watching easily QPR's promotion a few years ago and beating Chelsea twice in our short spell in the Premier League.

Best goal ever seen (preferably at local level but if not anything will do): Scored a few crosses/ shots from outrageous angles and distances myself.

Ambitions for the club: Had a slow start to the Saturday League but hopefully we can pick it up and finish within top two and maintain a cup run.

Team check

Nickname: SUFC

Local pub: Archer's Bar for a Wednesday social followed up with some karaoke at the Theatre of Dreams that is Kelly's.

The moaner: (who has to have it his way) Matty Edmonton likes to have his way over set pieces, whilst Dan McDonnell is partial to a moan over anything and everything.

Mr Motivator: (who riles the team into life) Not really motivating but 'Solid' Sam Bashua has some interesting chat on the pitch.

Worst haircut: None in today's side, pretty much a two back and sides 11 today.

Club joker: (the Jimmy Bullard figure) Ed Metzger aka Welbeck, does some things on a night out that make you consider his sanity. Away from the drink, he's constantly up to something.

The professional: (who treats each game like the FA Cup final) Tudor Siminic, needs to learn to crack a smile before a game.

Worst car and what: Any fresher still getting the bus to games.

PARK SCRATCHINGS ... PARK SCRATCHINGS PARK COME ON YOU BLUES!...OR



ALL EYES ON THE BALL: Action from the Southampton Uni versus AFC Hilingbury match. Pictures by **MATT WATSON**.

Order nos: 17385556 (above), 17385869 (below left), 17385891 (below right).



WHEN two teams' home kits match in colour, the usual outcome is one side will wear their away strip.

This has been the usual practice for a long time. It happens in the Premier League, all the way down the football pyramid every weekend – even as far down as the Hampshire local leagues, *writes Peter Howard*.

But when Southampton University took on AFC Hilingbury in the Drew Smith Premier Division both sides exited the changing rooms at Wide Lane donning the same shade of blue.

Following a period of confusion University captain Liam Hagan located an alternative red kit for his side to wear after his realisation that he was meant to organise another strip but forgot.

It was a brief spell of anarchy. After that, the game was able to get started with the Southampton University wearing their away shirts... at home.

Swirling winds and rain dominated much of the game – with one of the worst storms in 25 years heading perilously Hampshire's way.

The horrendous conditions failed to dampen the spirits of AFC Hilingbury though, as they ran out 2-1 winners – confirming the first defeat for Southampton University this season.

The University side have the pick of three full squads – the third of their teams facing Hilingbury – in line with their rotation system with the first and second outfits.

The rotation of squads seemed to pay off as Southampton took the lead when Dan McDonnell slammed home his first goal of the season after a matter of minutes – a sumptuous half volley from just outside the box which nestled bottom left of the net.

But from there Hilingbury

AFC HILINGBURY: Left to right, back: Craig Jiggins, Sam Oliver, Lewis Stevenson, Dan Powell, Stefan Williams, Arron Elam and Chris Cooper. Front: Andy Furness, Tom Langford, Andy Harvey, James May and Stu May.

Picture order nos: 17385624



Want to be featured in next week's Park Scratchings?

SCRATCHINGS ... PARK SCRATCHINGS ... MAYBE, COME ON YOU REDS!

had a spell of domination and their labour bore fruit as Aaron Elam scored a top-drawer volley from the edge of the box, controlling the ball with his knee and smashing it bottom left.

And Hiltingbury grabbed the lead on the stroke of half-time as a dangerous free kick was cleared off the face of Hagan but eventually slammed home from close range by Stefan Williams.

The second half ended goalless after periods of possession by both teams – the gale force winds making life difficult.

Hiltingbury boss Dan Powell felt his side are beginning to bond together nicely.

"We have only really just brought this team together – but already they look great," said the manager.

"I thought we were predominant throughout the match – which I thought wasn't going to go ahead in the first place.

"The conditions looked pretty dire as we drove to the game but I'm glad we played as we grabbed three valuable points against a side that were unbeaten.

Powell arrived at the beginning of the season with several players who had played under him at the folded White Star Wombles – rock bottom of the Premier Division last season with just one win all season.

But, with a rejuvenated side, Powell has already surpassed last term's points tally of five – with seven already this campaign.

"We play on the ground and we have a good attitude to go with it – we're only going to get better this year, I felt we put in a dominant performance against Southampton and that will only help to build our confidence," Powell said.

Hagan, on the other hand, admitted to the disorganisation error that led to a clash in kits. "Somehow we made a hash of the kit organisation," he said.



"We knew we had to wear red as they don't have an away kit so we agreed to do so but we ended up taking to the field wearing the same colour."

As for the performance the captain thought they weren't outplayed.

"We had good spells of possession – we should have got a draw really – that would have been a deserved result I think," he said.

"There is a real difference between this league and the University league we play in on Wednesdays – we certainly have top-three qualities though I think."

ON TARGET: Dan McDonnell scores for Uni, above. Picture order no: 17385581.
Right: McDonnell celebrates.
Picture order no: 17385589.



SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY: Left to right, back: Tudor Siminic, Dimi Lekkas, Ed McTeiger, Liam Hagan, Mike Medici, Sam Bashua, Dan McDonnell and Matt Edmonton. Front: Felix Klinkhammer, Jago Seymour, Karl Steinbora, Matt Hodgson, Alex Gottwald and Matt Cole.

Picture order no:17385585

Who are Ya?

AFC Hiltingbury

Lewis Stevenson, centre back: First team coach. Usually team joker. Not afraid to put his foot through the ball. Often mistakes it for a player's legs. Hiltingbury's longest server.

Craig Siggins "Sigs", centre back: Team captain. Leads well from the back. Good in the air and an excellent tackler; speciality is receiving hospital balls.

Jake Godfrey, left back: Reputation along the lines of Darren Anderton. Good player who has been at the club a few years. Seems to be injured for the games we have lost heavily. I'm sure he'll tell you it's a coincidence.

Tom Langford "Langers": Team's left sided utility man. Something of a Forrest Gump – runs around all game. His height makes Duracell Bunny a better comparison.

Stefan Williams, utility man: Converting into a very good centre back though he started as a striker. Loves to talk and organises well at the back. Good to have as an attacking option late in games.

Sam Oliver, right back: Since his signing of Coops (see below), has transformed from error prone full back to Dani Alves attacking style player.

Chris Cooper "Coops", right back: One of a few players who moved over from Wombles this year. Very solid, also has Bergkamp vision for a pass. Ability to meander his relaxed way from the changing room to the pitch is masterful.

Sam Fry, utility man: Can play well in a number of positions. Work commitments have hampered game time this season.

Andy Furness, centre midfielder/back: Usually plays midfield but can fill in well at centre back. More than just the token northerner, which most teams have in our leagues. I haven't quite figured out what that is.

Stu May, centre midfield: Lazy, timid, soft, pulls out of tackles – all not in Stu's vocabulary. At 40 years (and 28 months) still covers more ground than any other player. Always encouraging, the most intelligent football player I ever played with.

James May, utility man: Son of Stu and it shows. Is developing into an excellent player, despite turning into a gnome.

Lenny Idowu, utility man: In training is very skilful, full of pace. But it seems work is more important to him than football... lightweight.

Jose Carvello, winger/striker: Has played in the youth teams and broke into first team this season. Quick and direct player.

Elliott Rolls, winger/striker: Another good young player from the youth system at Hiltingbury, breaking into first team this season. Vocal on and off the pitch. 100 per cent success with penalties.

Sam Besant, striker: Another very exciting player from youth team. Hasn't looked back since forcing his way into the starting line up. Proof that AFC Hiltingbury does have talent.

Andy Harvey, striker: Shows how effective an old head can be. Great determination, very good eye for a defence splitting pass. Recovering from injury.

Aaron Elam, striker: If the changing room is quiet then we know Aaron is not around. Never short of an idea or theory. Also 100 per cent penalty record (missed that is). But he asked me not to mention it.

Will Lane, striker: Only played 45 minutes in pre season before getting a bad knee injury which has left him sidelined. Looks excellent striker.

Youseff: Most recent signing. Very comfortable on the ball. Long legs serve him well when tackling. First player to go down this season with cramp.

Manager: Dan Powell

Age: 33 (just)

From: Chancellors Ford

Position: Goalkeeper /

Manager / Team secretary

Favourite player: Bergkamp

and Peter Schmeichel

Support: Arsenal

Best moment: Playing for my

country at under 18 level

Best goal since managing Hilts: Last Saturdays

volley from Arron. No keeper in the world would

have saved it (apart from me).

Ambition: The club in the Hampshire leagues, but short term is to become a team that every opposition find it near on impossible to beat.

Team check

Nickname: The Hilts

Local Pub: Monks Brook

Skipper: Sigs

Moaner: Sigs / Aaron

Mr Motivator: Should be me, but Stu is an excellent motivator and always encourages when things are not going well.

Worst hair: James May. Its not so much the hair, but more the connection of his hair to his face which makes him look like a gnome

Joker: Lewis. Without a doubt.

Professional: Aaron Elam. Loves everything about matches and training. Loves pre match build up, team talks. Never short of ideas on tactics and training.

Worst Car: Langers. Not sure what it is clearly has no sat nav to guide him to the right car parks and no accelerator as he has been known to turn up just before kick off.

Contact Pete Howard on 02380 424513



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Non-league Football

Derby day delight for Sporting

SPORTING BTC had a fine 5-1 victory in their local derby with Woolston in the Vets A division, as Jason Gosney grabbed a brace.

Kev Alden struck all three goals as Hedge End Rangers defeated Locks Heath 3-1. Baddesley Park won by the same margin against Rising Sun to net their first three points. Follands were 2-1 winners at BTC courtesy of Alan Smith and Ben Adams.

B division fancies Regents Park (Mick Dean) and Mich & Tims (Mark Turnbull) cancelled each other out 1-1, allowing Totton OB, 2-1 winners over Redbridge OB thanks to Tom Moody and Brian Smith, to narrow the gap.

Nick Alp scored twice as Langley Manor defeated Royal Mail 4-2. BTC B won 1-0 at Stoneham and Compton and Priory shared four goals with Neil Woolmer netting both for Priory.

Over 40 draw specialists BTC were at it again, drawing 4-4 with Winchester OB as Richie Channell showed he has lost none of his flair by hitting a hat-trick for BTC.

Hamble Club were 3-0 winners against Langley Manor. Redlynch remain in charge with a narrow 3-2 win versus Bishops Waltham Dynamo with Andy Goodridge on a double. Sporting BTC were the latest to make hay at Humble Plumb's expense, Krzysztor Wiacek netting twice in the 7-0 outcome.

Ladies to get started

THE Drew Smith League will soon begin their inaugural ladies division, with November seeing the six teams playing their first fixtures.

The six teams are New Forest, Chamberlayne, Southampton University, Portsmouth University, Fleetlands and Hants Police. Teams will play each other, once each, on a monthly basis, with a play off system to complete the season.

CUP DRAWS

SOUTHAMPTON DIVISIONAL CUP DRAWS

Senior Cup: AFC Hittingbury v Eastleigh Res, Bishopstoke WMC v Hedge End Rangers, Colden Common v Soton University, Hamble Club v Q K Southampton, Locks Heath v Infinity, Romsey Tn Res v AFC Totton Res, Team Solent v Sholing Res, Winchester Castle v Nursling.

JUNIOR A Quarter-finals: AFC Gulf Western v Phoenix XI, Bishops Waltham Dyn v Chamberlayne, Compton Res v West Totton, Langley Manor v Osborne.

JUNIOR B Semi-finals: AFC Station v New Forest Res, New Forest v Athletic Romsey.

VETERANS Quarter-finals: Follands v Sporting BTC, Hedge End Rangers v Hythe Aztecs, Regents Park, Totton OB v Baddesley Pk.



BRAISHFIELD RESERVES JUNIOR 6 : Back row, left to right: Dave Old, Andy Nutman, Lee Boyle, Lee Whitelock, Matt Pile, Dan Thebe, Ben Musselwhite, Ben Boulton, Jake Batchelor, Jake Hitchcock and Kevin Hitchcock. Front: Danny Hewitt, Dave Mason, Ollie Stone, Karl Hopkins, Trebor Evans, Dan Lewis and Toby Griffin.

CUP HOLDERS OUT

ONE Junior League Cup tie saw holders Chandler's Ford bow out at the first attempt.

They were beaten by fellow top flighters Chamberlayne, courtesy of Billy Cozens and Shaun and Aaron Looker.

In Junior 1 Osborne finally turned their fine cup form into league points with a 4-1 win against Lowford, with Ben Scarborough sealing it with a treble.

Leaders AFC Gulf Western were 3-0 winners over FC Wellington, while Charlie Brown struck two for West Totton in their 5-2 defeat of Compton. Montefiore suffered a shock 3-0

defeat at the hands of Applewood Joinery, denting their perfect start and allowing Braishfield to return to the top of Junior 2, but they had to recover a two goal deficit against bottom team Botley Village, Marc Beston with two in their 3-2 win.

Warsash Wasps won 1-0 at Hamble United, while a pair apiece from Matt Burke and Matt Burrell helped Compton to a 5-1 trimming of Questmap.

Player manager Clem Lopez struck twice as London Air flew into a 3-0 lead but they had to hang on as Bishops Waltham Dynamo hit two replies.

AFC Botley motor on in Junior 3

after a 2-0 victory over Priory Rovers.

The individual performance of the day saw Jack Wiffen score all four in Otterbourne A's 4-2 triumph at Phoenix.

Rich Frost of Capital helped his team edge AFC Testwood 4-3 with a treble. Wellow and Inmar finished three each.

Junior 4 produced two surprise defeats for title challengers. AFC Station crashed 2-0 to Athletic Romsey, while rivals Mitre fell 5-2 to Sporting Wessex, for whom Paul Wilkinson hit a hat-trick.

Chief beneficiaries were New Forest, whose 3-2 defeat of

Shamlehurst puts them into contention.

Matt Sargeant scored all three for AFC Hittingbury Res but they could only share the spoils with AFC Nemesis.

Harefield Res gained three important points with a 4-0 local derby win over Weston City.

New Forest Res hit BTC A for six with just one reply, Ross Jones with a hat-trick in the process.

Thompson were 3-0 victors over Waltham Wolves with Joe Walsh at the double. White Horse edged Mich & Tims A 2-1 while Braishfield Res squeezed past Hamble Utd Res by the same score.

Double shock as Premier big guns are felled

There were two significant shocks in the Premier division last Saturday, with perhaps the biggest being Netley CS suffering a 3-0 home reverse to Bishopstoke WMC, whose form has been variable to say the least.

However, rivalling that result for shock factor was Soton University's 2-1 home defeat by AFC Hittingbury, who have now won two in a row after a disastrous start to the campaign. University scored first

but fell to goals from Stefan Williams and Aaron Elam.

Defeats for these two, leaves Comrades and Cadnam as favourites, at least for now.

Comrades were 4-1 winners at Hedge End Town, who surprisingly have yet to gain a point despite emphatically winning Senior 1 last season.

New Hedge End signing Ryan Simpa opened the scoring but Comrades overpowered them in the second half, with Lewis Morse grabbing a

HAND OVER

FOR my last edition of the Drew Smith round-up I will take the opportunity to point out that the Drew Smith League will still receive expert coverage from Echo reporters Simon Walter and Peter Howard.

Any clubs with special tales to tell relating to their games or special events that warrant coverage, can contact either of the above through the echo (echosport@dailyecho.co.uk) or through the league, who are happy to forward any details to Simon or Peter.

brace. Most impressive was the Cadnam perfor-

mance as they thrashed BTC 7-0, with two each from Dan

Gain, Ash Hower and Dean Lavelle.

The big Senior 1 clash lived up to the billing, with former Riverside player Dan Burgess opening the scoring for his new team, AFC Grains, who went two up through Simon Gray.

The introduction of Danny Phillips changed the tone of the game but Riverside could only register a Kev Corbett-Butler penalty in reply.

Harefield returned to winning ways with a 7-0 mauling of Durlay

Res, including a triple from Marcus Bevan.

Solent Saints remained on track with a 6-0 verdict over a QK Soton Res team that had knocked them out of the League Cup just seven days previous.

Tamlyn Goodrich hit a hat-trick for Saints.

Comrades Res made it a good day for the club with a 3-1 win against BTC Res. One League Cup tie saw Wade Wilson add another two to his growing tally as Nursling won 4-2 versus Burridge AFC.

Non-league Football



CONGRATULATIONS: Southampton Saints Ladies celebrate a goal against Portsmouth Uni.

DEMOLITION DERBY

Saints Ladies win south coast bragging rights



ON THE BURST: Action from Southampton Saints under-11s v Petersfield.

SOUTHAMPTON Saints Ladies took the south coast bragging rights with a 3-1 away victory over Portsmouth University.

Saints took the lead after just two minutes as Whyte's cross was half cleared and Georgina Axton half volleyed past a stranded keeper to score her second in two games.

The first half saw the visitors create chance after chance with four one on ones squandered. And Saints were made to pay when a scrambled goal on the half hour put the Uni side level.

Saints made their first change on 59 minutes with Becky Lendrum, who is still somewhat off full fitness following a hernia operation, being replaced by Leah Holloway.

Saints keeper Haughton was called in to action twice in a matter of minutes to deny any Uni threat with two good claims.

The visitors' second change had an immediate impact. Rachel Snow replaced Beth

Whitehorn and after a couple of full blooded tackles, Snow received the ball from Holloway and from 25 yards out scored with an angled drive.

Nine minutes later it was game over as Whyte fed Amber Siley and she calmly slotted the ball through the legs of the advancing Pompey keeper.

Saints' U11s thrashed Petersfield 17-0 with goals from Grace Griffiths (7), Holly McKeown (2), Francesca Manson, Lucy Nightingale, Katelyn Wort, Charlotte Webb and Larissa White.

Saints' under-12s thumped their Portsmouth University counterparts 10-1 at the Garrison Ground, Winchester.

Jennifer King (5), Beth Turner (2), Kia Anteney, Chloe Hussey and Grace Jenman were all on target.

Just one goal decided the contest when Saints' under-15/16 hosted Swindon Town's under-16s.

Saints' Elle Pearce netted the winner midway through the first half, scoring with a blistering strike from 30 yards out.

Petley treble sinks Anchor

THE wet weather decimated the Sunday league fixture list last weekend, only a handful of games going ahead.

In the first round of the Trophyman Challenge Cup, Trants FC handed a 7-2 thrashing to AFC Anchor.

Daniel Petley scored a hat-trick and

Nathan Buckley bagged a brace, with Neil Allen and Ricky Richardson also netting. John Richardson and Danny Smith replied.

AFC West End progressed to round two after beating C&G FC 4-2. Joe Dawson, Connor Doswell, Craig Harding and Gareth Snelling were all on target.

In the Southampton & District Sunday League Division Two, Holbury United smashed Otter FC 9-1.

Michael Switzer netted four times, Scott Mansfield and George West twice, and Dan Tonkin a single. Jamie Blythe responded for the drowned Otters.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, November 4
BARCLAYS U21 PREMIER LEAGUE
 Southampton U21 v Wolverhampton U21 (7pm).
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
 Premier Division: Redditch v Chippenham.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
 Wyvern Challenge Cup, first round:
 Folland Sports v New Milton, Team Solent v AFC Portchester.

Tuesday, November 5
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
 Group A: Real Sociedad v Man Utd, Shakhtar Donetsk v Bayer Leverkusen.
 Group B: FC Copenhagen v Galatasaray, Juventus v Real Madrid.
 Group C: Olympiacos v Benfica, PSG v Anderlecht.
 Group D: Man City v CSKA Moscow, Pzzen v Bayern Munich.
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
 League 1: Bristol City v Crawley Town, Carlisle v Wolverhampton.
SKRILL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
 South: Dover v Eastleigh, Bromley v Chelmsford, Maidenhead v Farnborough.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
 Premier Division: AFC Totton v Weymouth, Chesham v Bedford, Hemel Hempstead v Bashley, Stourbridge v Hungerford.
 Division One South & West: Fleet Town v Yate.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
 Premier Division: Downton v Romsey, Folland Sports v Bournemouth Poppies, Newport IoW v Verwood.
SWL Cup, quarter-final: Blackfield & Langley v Alresford Town; third round: Fareham Town v Bemerton HH.
RUSSELL COTES CUP
 First round: Lymington Town v Sholing.
PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP
 Second round: US Portsmouth v Paulsgrove.
DORSET SENIOR CUP
 Second round: Poole Town v Holt Utd.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
 Premier Division: Dorchester Town v AFC Totton.

Wednesday, November 6
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
 Group E: Basle v Steaua Bucuresti, Chelsea v Schalke 04.
 Group F: Borussia Dortmund v Arsenal, Napoli v Marseille.
 Group G: Atletico Madrid v FK Austria Vienna, Zenit St Petersburg v FC Porto.
 Group H: Ajax v Celtic, Barcelona v AC Milan.
CAPITAL ONE CUP
 Fourth round: Sunderland v Southampton (7.45pm).
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
 Premier Division: Corby v Banbury, Frome v Truro.
 Division One South & West: Swindon Supermarine v Shortwood.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
 SWL Cup, quarter-final: Moneyfields v Petersfield.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
 Premier Division: Locks Heath v Otterbourne.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
 Wyvern Challenge Cup, first round:
 Hordean v Moneyfields.

Thursday, November 7
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
 Group A: Kuban Krasnodar v Swansea, St Gallen v Valencia.
 Group B: Ludogorets v Chornomorets, PSV v Dinamo Zagreb.
 Group C: Esbjerg v IF Elfsborg, Standard Liege v SV Red Bull Sal.
 Group D: Maribor v Zulte-Waregem, Rubin Kazan v Wigan.
 Group E: Dnipro v Pacos Ferreira, Pandurii Targu-Jiu v Fiorentina.
 Group F: Apoel Nicosia v Bordeaux, Maccabi Tel-Aviv v Eintracht Frankfurt.
 Group G: FC Thun v Dynamo Kiev, Rapid Vienna v Genk.
 Group H: Estoril v SC Freiburg, Sevilla v Liberec.
 Group I: Guimaraes v Real Betis, Rijeka v Lyon.
 Group J: Lazio v Apollon Limassol, Legia Warsaw v Trabzonspor.
 Group K: Spurs v FC Sheriff, Tromso v Anzhi Makhachkala.
 Group L: AZ v Shakhtyor Karagandy, Maccabi Haifa v PAOK Salonika.
FA YOUTH CUP
 First round proper: AFC Totton U18s v Leyton Orient U18s.
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
 Division One West: Romsey Town v Lymington Town.

Friday, November 8
FA CUP
 First round: Bristol Rovers v York, AFC Wimbledon v Coventry.

Saturday, November 9
FA CUP
 First round: Accrington Stanley v Tranmere, Boreham Wood v Carlisle, Braintree Town v Newport County, Bristol City v Dag & Red, Bury v Cambridge Utd, Chesterfield v Davenport Town, Colchester v Sheff Utd, Corby v Dover, Gloucester v Fleetwood Town, Grimsby v Scunthorpe, Hartlepool v Notts County, Huddersfield v Crawley Town, Leyton Orient v Southport, Macclesfield v Swindon, Milton Keynes Dons v FC Halifax, Morecambe v Southend, Oldham v Wolves, Oxford Utd v Gateshead, Peterborough v Exeter, Preston v Barnet, Rotherham v Bradford, St Albans v Mansfield, Stevenage v Portsmouth, Stourbridge v Biggleswade Town, Tamworth v Cheltenham, Torquay v Rochdale, Walsall v Shrewsbury, Welling v Luton, Wrexham v Alfreton Town, Wycombe v Crewe, Gillingham v Brackley, Salisbury v Dartford, Brentford v Staines Town, Lincoln City v Plymouth, Kidderminster v Sutton Utd.
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
 Aston Villa v Cardiff, Chelsea v West Brom, Crystal Palace v Everton, Liverpool v Fulham, Norwich v West Ham, SAINTS v Hull (3pm ko).

SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
 Championship: Barnsley v Doncaster, Blackpool v Ipswich, Bolton v Millwall, Brighton v Blackburn, Burnley v Bournemouth, Charlton v Leeds, Derby v Sheff Wed, Huddersfield v Birmingham, Leicester v Nottm Forest, Middlesbrough v Watford, Reading v QPR.
BARCLAYS U18 PREMIER LEAGUE
 SAINTS U18 v Arsenal U18 (11am).
SKRILL CONFERENCE
 Premier: Hyde v Chester FC.

South: Concord v Eastbourne Borough, Dorchester v Bath City, Eastleigh v Farnborough, Havant & Waterlooville v Chelmsford, Hayes & Yeading v Whitehawk, Maidenhead v Basingstoke, Tonbridge Angels v Ebbsfleet.
CALOR SOUTHERN LEAGUE
 Premier Division: Arlesley v Frome, Banbury v Redditch, Bashley v Burnham, Bedford v Bideford, Chippenham v Cambridge City, Poole Town v Hitchin, St Neots v Hemel Hempstead, Truro City v Chesham, Weymouth v Hungerford.

Division One South & West: Bishops Cleeve v Guildford City, Bridgwater v Evesham, Cinderford v Thatcham, Cirencester v Merthyr Town, Didcot v Clevedon, Fleet Town v Stratford, Paulton Rovers v Taunton, Wimborne v Mangotsfield, Yate v Tiverton.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
 Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Bemerton HH, Alresford v Brockenhurst, Bournemouth Poppies v Hordean, Christchurch v Blackfield & Langley, Lymington Town v Downton, Moneyfields v Totton & Eling, Romsey v Folland Sports, Sholing v Fawley AFC, Verwood v Hamworthy, Whitchurch v Fareham, Winchester City v Newport IoW.

Division One: Amesbury v Hythe & Dibden, East Cowes v Team Solent, Fleet Spurs v Stockbridge, Hayling Utd v Cowes Sports, Petersfield v Laverstock & Ford, Pewsey Vale v New Milton, Ringwood v Tadley Calvea, US Portsmouth v Andover NS.

PUMA ENGINEERING HPL
 Premier Division: Baffins Milton Rovers v Otterbourne, Bishops Waltham v Headley, Fleetlands v Clamfield, Liphook v Bournemouth Sports, Liss v AFC Aldermaston, Locks Heath v AFC Stoneham, Overton v Hedge End Rangers, OK Southampton v Colden Common, Winchester Castle v Paulsgrove.
Division One: Andover Lions v Upham, Broughton v Uni of Portsmouth, Bush Hill v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Dursley v Lyndhurst, Hamble Club v Four Marks.
Combination: AFC Stoneham v Overton, Clamfield v Liss, Hedge End Rangers v Winchester Castle, Michelmersh & Timsbury v Liphook, Otterbourne v Fleetlands, Paulsgrove v Hamble Club.

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
 Premier Division: Bemerton HH v AFC Portchester.

Division One East: Colden Common v US Portsmouth (2.00), Folland Sports v Hayling Utd, Hordean v Petersfield, Newport IoW v Locks Heath, Tadley Calvea v Alresford Town.
Division One West: Fawley AFC v East Cowes Vics, Laverstock & Ford v Ringwood, Team Solent v Christchurch.
Wyvern Shield, League phase: (B)AFC Totton v Hythe & Dibden, (C)Alton Town v Sholing.

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RUN THAT ISN'T JUST GOOD... IT'S GREAT!

KENYANS Emmanuel Bett and Florence Kiplagat defied gale force conditions to score convincing victories and capture their respective Bupa Great South Run titles last weekend.

Bett beat reigning champ Stephen Mokoka by 19 seconds in a time of 48:03, with Uganda's Thomas Ayeko a distant third in 49:08.

Andy Vernon was first Briton home, holding off the USA's four-time Olympian Abdi Abdirahman by two seconds in 49:21.

Kiplagat clocked a time of 53:53 to win the women's race from fellow Kenyan Polline Wanjiku, who recorded 56:43.

Great Britain's Charlotte Purdue was an excellent third in 56:57.

North Hampshire runner Purdue, who was running her first race for 14 months after a succession of serious injuries, was a revelation in unexpectedly making the podium.

"I've waited so long to get back into racing. I've missed it so much," said the 22-year-old.

"I'm so excited about how everything has gone. It was a good, hard race and I am going home a very happy person."

There were estimated to be more than 25,000 runners taking part in total.



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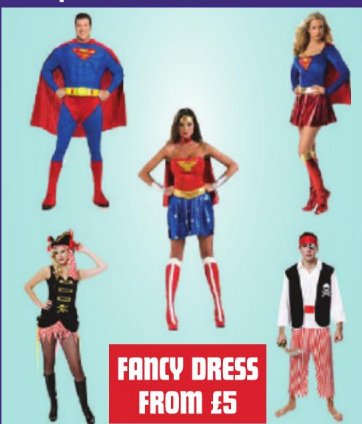
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Classics of The Ashes

ENGLAND are in Australia looking to win the Ashes for a fourth straight time.

Here are five of the greatest clashes between the two nations Down Under.

March 1877 – Australia beat England by 45 runs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground

What is now considered the first ever Test came before the concept of the Ashes, billed locally as James Lillywhite's XI v South Australia and New South Wales. England-born Australia opener Charles Bannerman scored the first Test century in the first innings. The touring side were set 154 for victory but Tom Kendall's seven-wicket haul saw them bowled out for 108 in the final innings. England tied the series after the second match, also at the MCG, ended in a four-wicket victory.

December 1954 – England beat Australia by 38 runs at the Sydney Cricket Ground

Having lost the opening encounter at Brisbane, England were inspired by young Northamptonshire paceman Frank Tyson, who was knocked out by a vicious bouncer from Ray Lindwall in the tourists' second innings. A fired-up Tyson had his revenge, running through Australia's batting line-up with six for 85 in a 10-wicket match haul. Tyson went on to play a key role in the next match at Melbourne as England retained the Ashes in a 3-1 series win.

March 1977 – Australia beat England by 45 runs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground

Dennis Lillee was the star of the one-off Centenary Test, where the Ashes were not at stake, with an 11-wicket match haul. Both



Kevin Peter Pietersen
Age 33

Born: June 27, 1980,
Pietermaritzburg, Natal

Right-hand bat
Bowling style Right-arm offbreak

Height 6 ft 4 in

Eng Test matches player (2005 - 2013, 99 matches)

Test debut England v Australia at Lord's, Jul 21-24, 2005

Statistics

Matches	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave
99	171	8	7887	227	48.38

sides were skittled cheaply in their first innings before Australia made a better fist of things second time round. Wicketkeeper-batsman Rod Marsh scored an unbeaten 110 as England were set a victory target of 463. They looked well placed too at 346 for four, but Kerry O'Keeffe took the key wicket of Derek Randall, who had made 174, and England meekly collapsed to 417 all out.

December 2006 – Australia beat England by six wickets at the Adelaide Oval.

There looked little danger of anything other than a draw when England racked up 551 for six declared, thanks largely to Paul Collingwood's double century and Kevin Pietersen's 158, while Australia were all out for 513. All the tourists had to do was bat out the final day, but they were all out for a measly 129, Shane Warne taking four wickets, before Australia scored 168 to win in under 33 overs.

December 2010 – England beat Australia by an innings and 57 runs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground

With the series poised at 1-1, England ended Australia hopes of winning back the urn with a dominant performance on day one. The hosts were all out for 98 – their lowest all-out total in an Ashes Test at the MCG in front of over 80,000 stunned Australians. Jonathan Trott's unbeaten 168 took Andrew Strauss' men to 513 all out before Yorkshireman Tim Bresnan – a controversial call-up in place of Steven Finn – justified his place with four for 50 as Australia subsided to 258 all out. England went on to claim their third innings victory of the tour in Sydney to complete a memorable 3-1 series success.

Outspoken Pietersen's problems rarely stem from WORDS OFTEN CATCH

KEVIN Pietersen has regularly hit the headlines for what he has said as much as the runs he has scored for England.

Here, as the former Hampshire batsman prepares for his 100th England Test later this month, *The Sports Pink* looks back at his best soundbites ...

On switching allegiance from his native South Africa to England:

"You are brought up to be loyal to the country you are in but I have never been totally patriotic to South Africa. It is a case of how I was brought up at home. My mum ruled the roost and she is English through-and-through."

On the verbal abuse when he toured South Africa as an England player:

"I knew I was going to cop a lot of stick but I just sat back and laughed at the opposition, with their swearing and 'traitor' remarks ...some of them can hardly speak English."

On his first major slump in form in 2007:

"Right now I'm mentally fatigued. I'm just a very, very tired person. The England team is a team that never, ever stops."

On criticism over his innovative switch-hit:

"Everybody wants brand new ideas, new inventions and new shots. That is a new shot I played today and people should be saying it's a new way to go."

On his appointment as England captain in 2008:

"I'll have my own ways and it's very exciting. It's a brand new test and a bright new challenge for me. I don't think I would be sitting here today if I wasn't 100 per cent confident that everything is going to be perfectly fine."

On his resignation as England captain less than six months later:

"In light of recent communications with the ECB, and the unfortunate media stories and speculation that have subsequently appeared, I now consider that it would be extremely difficult for me to continue in my current position."

On reports of strained relationships with team-mates:

"I've got zero problem with walking back into that dressing room. I can look anybody in the eye."

On being dropped from a Twenty20 series in 2010, via Twitter:

"Yep.. Done for rest of summer!! Man of the World Cup T20 and

Controversial career not lacking in drama

HAVING been selected for England's next Ashes assignment Down Under, Kevin Pietersen is on the cusp of a 100th Test cap for England.

It is a moment that seemed unlikely to come at several points in a controversial career, but Pietersen has survived plenty of bumps in the road.

Here, *The Sports Pink* assesses them.

January 2005 - Return to South Africa

Born and raised in Natal, Pietersen initially played for his home province before heading to pursue a career in England in frustration with the Proteas' quota system. When he returned to his homeland wearing the Three Lions, fans made their feelings known by turning their backs when he came to the crease. Three stunning hundreds later and they could not help but watch.

January 2009 - End of an error

If Pietersen's New Year's resolution was to relieve himself of the England captaincy, an honour sur-

prisingly handed to him ahead of the statelier Andrew Strauss, then it took him only hours to deliver. Pietersen told the England and Wales Cricket Board that the team would not progress under coach Peter Moores and called for his removal. The bold gambit did end Moores' tenure but also made Pietersen's position untenable and he reluctantly stood down too.

June 2008 - The switch hit

Found himself at the centre of a media storm over the laws of the game when he unveiled his innovative 'switch hit'. An extension of the reverse sweep, it involved flipping the entire stance from right-hand to left-hand to take advantage of gaps in the field. A number of former professionals called for it to be banned and it briefly became a genuinely divisive issue until the ICC ratified it as a legitimate stroke.

March 2011 - Only the brave...

When his star batsman took the unilateral decision to leave the World Cup due to a hernia injury, team director Andy Flower left little

doubt over his views. He cited medical advice that Pietersen could have taken painkillers and completed the tournament and added that he might have been "a bit braver". For his part, the player declared himself "devastated" and the physical toll of international cricket on his body has become a favourite topic.

July 2012 - Not shy but retiring

Shocked fans and pundits alike by announcing his retirement from one-day and Twenty20 cricket. Behind-the-scenes talks surrounding his desire to end his 50-over career but carry on playing Test and T20 cricket were unsuccessful after the ECB stood firm over the terms of their central contracts.

Pietersen had hopes of helping England defend their World T20 title later that year despite his exit, but the impasse lingered.

August 2012 - Heated at Headingley

Gave a staggering post-match press conference after a wonderful Test century against South Africa - treating Strauss dismissively, hinting he could retire from Tests at the end of the summer and, most famously, declaring "it's hard being me in this dressing room". Subsequently dropped and declined a central contract as the ECB investigated reports he had sent messages to members of the away team that concerned his own team-mates. He was later "reintegrated" to the side following an awkward and apologetic press conference alongside ECB chairman Giles Clarke.

FALL OF THE AUSSIES:

Kevin Pietersen, left, celebrates winning the Ashes in 2005.



dropped from the T20 side too.. It's a *** up!!"

On reports he was ready to turn his back on 50-over cricket at just 30 years old.

"There are so many people who say I'm not loving it, that cricket's not my thing anymore. I love cricket, cricket is my everything.

I have only achieved half of what I want in the game. I just want a

fair crack at it, because there's a lot of people saying things about me that are not true."

On his retirement from 50-over cricket less than two years later:

"With the intensity of the international schedule and the increasing demands on my body, approaching 32, I think it is the right time to step aside and let the next generation of

players come through to gain experience for the ICC World Cup in 2015."

On his future as an England player following an explosive press conference at Headingley:

"The saddest part about all this is that the spectators just love watching me play and I love playing for England. But the politics is what I have to deal with personally and it's tough being me in this dress-

FOLLOW ENGLAND'S ASHES PROGRESS IN THE DAILY ECHO

his lack of *cricketing technique on the pitch...* OUT A BATTING STAR



KP's top 5 Test knocks

KEVIN Pietersen is set to play his 100th Test for his adopted country when England take on Australia at the start of their Ashes rematch in November.

Here, the Sports Pink recalls five of the mercurial batsman's best Test innings.

The Oval, v Australia, September 2005 - 158, match drawn

The only starting point, and the moment when Pietersen won over (most of) his adopted nation. Just six runs separated the teams, and the series, on first innings and at 126 for five it seemed England's dream of overdue Ashes success might just unravel again. Pietersen had other ideas. He needed some luck along the way, but was a force of nature that day against a world-class and highly experienced attack.

Lord's, v India, July 2011 - 202 not out, England won by 196 runs

The 2,000th Test match was thought sure to be Sachin Tendulkar's last at Lord's, and in many minds was supposed to be all about the Little Master. Pietersen's first hundred runs were scratchy, the rest sublime. Collaterally, they were the difference between the two sides in a match which set the tone for a 4-0 series success as England dethroned India to go to the top of the world rankings for the first time.

Colombo, v Sri Lanka, April 2012 - 151, England won by eight

UPS AND DOWNS:

Kevin Pietersen has had plenty of highs. Left: he suffers the agony of Ashes Test dismissal at Old Trafford.

wickets

Pietersen had begun his most turbulent year with a miserable run of scores, along with most of his team-mates, in a 3-0 drubbing against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates. Here, in searing and stamina-sapping heat, he dominated the Sri Lankans on their home turf to lead England to a series-levelling and face-saving victory.

Headingley, v South Africa, August 2012 - 149, match drawn

The scene of Pietersen's most outrageous extremes. In the middle, he was breathtaking as he took apart Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel to help give England fleeting hope of victory in a rain-affected match against the world's new best team. Afterwards, he held a stunningly inept press conference in which - intent apparently on saying nothing - he did the opposite, and kickstarted a crisis of man-management for England.

Mumbai, v India, November 2012 - 186, England won by 10 wickets

The best of the lot, surely. England's hopes of a first series win in India since the mid-1980s appeared forlorn after chastening defeat in Ahmedabad. But on a spinners' paradise at the Wankhede Stadium - James Anderson's wicket with the second ball of the match was the only success for the seamers - Pietersen's batting bordered on the supernatural. He dominated a stand of 206 with fellow centurion Alastair Cook as England levelled the score at 1-1 and took the momentum on for another victory in Kolkata and eventual 2-1 success.

Tremlett struggles for wickets

FORMER Hampshire batsman Chris Tremlett's Ashes hopes suffered a blow during England's drawn match against a WA Chairman's XI in Australia.

The Southampton paceman, chasing a Test place, struggled to make an impact, taking one wicket during the match at a cost of 123 runs while two of the touring party's other giant pacemen fared better.

Boyd Rakin took three wickets at a cost of 126 runs and Steven Finn nabbed three, although he conceded 176 runs.

Hampshire opener Michael Carberry stated his case for a place with 76 in England's 391 all out - their one innings - but England can have learned precious little about the finer details of their Ashes plans from the stalemate.

The run-fest of the first two days extended to centuries for Ian Bell (115) and Jonathan Trott (113 not out) on another fine morning, but was then rudely interrupted by an unexpected England collapse either side of lunch as they conceded a 60-run first-innings deficit.

The hosts then batted out 39 more overs, to the tune of 168 for five declared, so that the inevitable draw could be confirmed at the WACA.

Apart from the battle of the pace-men, the other obviously undecided position for the first Test in Brisbane is at number six - and after Gary Ballance and Ben Stokes mustered only four runs between them, there was minimal evidence to go on.



TREMLETT

Three years ago, England arrived in Perth evidently already sure of their best Test XI and flew on to Adelaide with the confirmation of a heartening victory over strong opposition.

This time, they have faced a lesser side but one able to take the honours by piling up 451 for five declared thanks to five 50s and a century from their top six.

All seemed to be going to plan in England's reply by the time Bell retired out to end his third-wicket stand of 193 with Trott.

But England then lost their last seven wickets for 57, Jim Allenby picking up four for 58, as a remarkable run of nine 50s or better from 11 individual innings in this match was replaced by a procession of single-figure scores.

Home openers Luke Towers and Marcus Harris had set the tone two days ago with a stand of 115. But second innings both fell cheaply to Rankin, Towers caught at third slip and Harris lbw playing no shot to one that kept low after hitting a crack.

With Test linchpin James Anderson spared any unnecessary second-innings bowling exertions, change bowlers Finn and Stokes might also each have had an early wicket - but Lynn was dropped on 12 by Rankin diving to his left at mid on off the former and then on 19 by Joe Root high to his right at second slip.

Finn eventually got his second and third wickets of the match, Marsh lbw and Tom Triffitt caught-behind in the same over. They had come at the cost of 165 runs by then, and when Tremlett struck for the first time - Ashton Turner lbw pushing forward round his pad - he too had three figures in the penultimate column.

ing room. Playing for England is tough. We'll see."

On his contrition over his conduct:

"I was very emotional. I am who I am in terms of shooting from the hip occasionally, and I do make mistakes."

Denying giving South Africa tips on how to dismiss Andrew Strauss:

"I'd like to make it clear that at no time did I share tactical information with any of the South Africans.

It's been a horrible situation for all involved but it is time to move forward."

On being out of the side due to injury:

"I've played 94 Test matches and 100-and-however-many international one-dayers, Twenty-20s... I've been around since 2004 and you

still get that 'I'm an injured player' feeling. Sport gets you in, and it gets you out again real quick."

On his desire to play the 2013 Ashes despite fitness issues:

"It was a big decision. My knee was a shambles. I could have had surgery but the Ashes means too much.

Everyone who has ever played cricket wants to play in the Ashes. I like to stand up and be counted."

Scare are they now



FAREHAM WHEELERS (FEB 1988): Mike Eastwood receives an award on behalf of Fareham Wheelers from the Mayor and former Mayoress of Fareham..



BRITISH CHAMPIONS (NOV 1989): The Southampton Speedway team who the national title. Back, from left: Colin Wheeler, Mark Living, Phil Stevens, Gary Makepeace. Front: Clive Wilson, Ian Woodhouse, Dave Murphy and Pete Robinson.



WINNERS (MAY 1987): Wessex Cyclo Cross champs Ian McDonald, Andrew MacDonald and Kevin Blann.



NATIONAL CHAMPS (JAN 1988): Houndsdown School's national 10-mile team championship team: Andrew Butt, Martin Coombes and Mark Pearce.



ABOVE - HAMPSHIRE GIRLS (JULY 1989): Rachel Targett and Rachel Head.

LEFT - VECTIS ROADS CYCLING CLUB (JAN 1985): Jeremy Short, Ralph Dadswell and Graham Oliver.

Scare are they now



VC VENTA (MARCH 1990): VC Venta Cycling Club.



RIDERS (JULY 1936): Woolston Cycling Club's outing to Romsey.



SPONSOR (JULY 1989): Antelope Cycle Team celebrate their deal with Radford & Sons accountants.



GS EUROPA MEDAL WINNERS (MAY 197): Bob Wright, Ian McDonald, Andrew MacDonald, Kevin Blann, Craig Glen.



LEFT - SPONSORED RIDE (JULY 1984):

Teachers from Glen Eyre School go on a sponsored bike ride. They are, from left: Richard Hyde, Trevor Judd, David Elliott, Roger Davies and Peter Phipps.



MILK RACE (MAY 1979): The finish of the Milk Race in Basingstoke.

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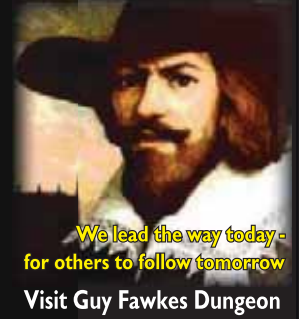
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Barclays Premier League

Arsenal.....	L	Liverpool.....	L
Fulham.....	1	Man Utd.....	3
Kacaniklic 65		Valencia 9, van Persie 20	
HT 0-3		Rooney 22	
Hull.....	1	Sunderland.....	0
Cuellar 25 og		Att 24,677	
HT 1-0			
Man City.....	7	Norwich.....	0
Johnson 16 og, Silva 20			
Nastasic 25, Negredo 36			
Toure 60, Aguiero 71			
Dzeko 86			
HT 4-0		Att 47,066	
Newcastle.....	2	Chelsea.....	0
Gouffran 68, Remy 89			
HT 0-0		Att 51,674	
Stoke.....	1	SAINTS.....	1
Begovic 1		Rodriguez 42	
HT 1-1		Att 26,053	
W.B.A.....	2	Crystal P.....	0
Berahino 45, McAuley 83			
HT 1-0		Att 26,397	
West Ham.....	0	A. Villa.....	0
HT 0-0		Att 34,977	

HOME AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Arsenal	9	3	0	1	9	5	4	1	0	11	4	22
Liverpool	9	4	0	1	9	3	2	2	0	8	5	20
Chelsea	10	5	0	0	12	3	1	2	2	4	5	20
Man City	10	5	0	0	20	2	1	1	3	8	9	19
SAINTS	10	3	2	1	5	4	3	0	1	4	3	19
Spurs	9	3	1	1	5	4	3	0	1	4	3	19
Everton	9	3	1	0	6	3	2	2	1	8	7	18
Man Utd	10	2	2	1	7	5	3	0	2	10	8	17
Newcastle	10	2	2	1	7	5	2	0	3	7	11	14
Hull	10	3	2	0	4	1	1	0	4	4	9	14
W.B.A.	10	2	1	2	6	4	1	3	1	4	6	13
Swansea	9	1	2	2	8	8	2	0	2	4	3	11
A. Villa	10	1	0	4	4	9	2	2	1	5	3	11
West Ham	10	1	1	3	5	7	1	3	1	3	1	10
Fulham	10	1	1	3	5	9	2	0	3	5	6	10
Stoke	10	1	3	1	3	3	1	0	4	4	8	9
Cardiff	9	1	1	2	4	5	1	2	2	4	8	9
Norwich	10	1	2	2	4	6	1	0	4	2	14	8
Sunderland	10	1	0	4	5	10	0	1	4	2	12	4
Crystal P	10	1	0	4	4	10	0	0	5	2	11	3

SkyBet Championship

Birmingham.....	0	Charlton.....	1
HT 0-0		Stephens 57	
Blackburn.....	1	Middlesbro.....	0
Low 76		Att 14,070	
HT 0-0		Att 16,645	
CHERRIES.....	0	Bolton.....	2
HT 0-1		Ngog 37, Beckford 90	
Doncaster.....	1	Brighton.....	1
Brown 75		Forster-Caskey 8, Lita 85	
HT 0-1		Lopez 90	
Leeds Utd.....	2	Yeovil.....	0
McCormack 48,67		Att 7,396	
HT 0-0		Att 25,351	
Millwall.....	2	Burnley.....	2
McDonald 23		Vokes 39	
Shittu 38		Lowry 55 og	
HT 2-1			
Nottm For.....	0	Blackpool.....	1
HT 0-0		Dobbie 90	
Q.P.R.....	2	Derby City.....	1
Jenas 11		Dawkins 23	
Hill 63			
HT 1-1		Att 18,171	
Sheff Wed.....	5	Reading.....	2
Fryatt 18,63		Pogrebnyak 35	
Antonio 25		Le Fondre 90 pen	
Morrison 42 og, Wickham 57			
HT 3-1		Att 20,368	
Watford.....	0	Leicester.....	3
Wood 10, Knockaert 53			
HT 0-1		Dyer 86	
Wigan.....	2	Huddersfld.....	1
Barnett 21		Norwood 45	
Powell 50			
HT 1-1			

HOME AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Burnley	14	5	2	0	14	3	5	1	1	12	6	33
Leicester	14	6	1	0	13	6	4	1	2	11	7	32
Q.P.R.	14	6	1	0	10	2	3	3	1	6	5	31
Blackpool	14	4	3	0	8	4	3	3	1	9	7	27
Reading	14	4	3	0	13	6	2	2	3	9	17	23
Nottm For	14	4	2	1	11	6	2	3	2	10	10	23
Watford	14	3	2	2	13	10	3	2	2	12	8	22
Leeds Utd	14	4	1	2	12	6	2	1	4	6	10	20
Blackburn	14	4	1	2	11	5	1	3	3	9	11	19
Wigan	14	3	4	3	12	7	1	1	4	4	5	19
Derby City	14	1	3	3	10	14	4	1	2	16	9	19
Brighton	14	2	3	2	10	9	2	3	2	5	5	18
Ipswich	14	4	1	2	12	6	0	4	3	8	12	17
Huddersfld	14	4	3	3	11	3	1	2	4	5	8	17
CHERRIES	14	4	0	3	11	10	1	2	4	9	19	17
Middlesbro	14	2	4	1	15	9	1	2	4	8	13	15
Charlton	13	1	3	2	3	4	2	2	3	7	10	14
Millwall	14	2	2	3	10	12	1	3	3	7	16	14
Bolton	14	0	5	2	6	8	2	2	3	7	12	13
Doncaster	13	2	1	4	7	11	1	2	3	5	12	12
Sheff Wed	13	1	3	2	10	9	0	5	2	7	11	11
Birmingham	14	2	1	4	10	7	1	1	5	4	14	11
Barnsley	14	2	3	2	10	16	0	1	6	6	15	10
Yeovil	14	1	1	5	4	9	1	2	4	5	12	9

SkyBet League One

Bristol C.....	1	Oldham.....	1
Emmanuel-Thomas 36		Dayton 77	
HT 1-0		Att 11,352	
Coventry.....	3	Notts Cnty.....	0
L Clarke 47,58			
Wilson 64			
HT 0-0		Att 2,693	
Crawley.....	0	Brentford.....	1
HT 0-1		Forshaw 5 pen	
Crewe.....	0	Bradford.....	0
HT 0-0		Att 5,428	
Gillingham.....	1	Carlisle.....	0
Kedwell 63 pen			
HT 0-0		Att 5,697	
M K Dons.....	1	Walsall.....	0
Williams 65			
HT 0-0		Att 7,711	
Peterboro.....	1	Leyton O.....	3
Rowe 26		Mooney 39,58	
HT 1-1		Cox 49	
Preston.....	1	Tranmere.....	1
Garnier 90		Atkinson 55	
HT 0-0		Att 9,496	
Rotherham.....	2	Colchester.....	2
Tubbs 9		Bean 7	
Agard 22		Lee 90	
HT 2-1		Att 7,096	
Shrewsbury.....	2	Sheff Utd.....	0
Jacobson 39			
McAllinden 80			
HT 1-0		Att 6,226	
Swindon.....	5	Port Vale.....	2
N'Guessan 24		Pope 73	
Ranger 50		Hughes 80	
Luongo 57,90			
Byrne 82			
HT 1-0		Att 7,637	
Wolves.....	2	Stevenage.....	0
Doye 7			
Henry 81			
HT 1-0		Att 17,700	

HOME AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Leyton O	15	6	1	0	17	5	6	1	1	19	7	38
Wolves	14	6	1	1	16	5	5	1	0	11	3	35
Peterboro	15	5	1	2	9	7	5	1	1	16	5	32
Preston	15	3	4	1	12	9	4	2	1	11	7	27
Brentford	15	4	1	2	8	5	4	2	2	12	12	27
Bradford	15	4	1	2	15	6	2	4	2	9	8	23
Swindon	15	6	1	1	20	9	1	1	5	9	11	23
M K Dons	15	5	2	2	11	5	1	2	4	9	12	22
Walsall	15	5	2	3	7	10	4	2	2	10	5	22
Rotherham	15	2	4	2	11	13	3	2	2	10	9	21
Coventry	15	6	1	1	22	14	3	2	2	12	8	20
Port Vale	15	3	2	2	10	10	3	0	5	11	14	20
Crawley	14	4	1	3	10	11	1	3	2	8	9	19
Colchester	15	2	3	2	6	8	1	5	2	9	12	17
Shrewsbury	15	3	4	1	10	5	0	3	4	5	11	16
Oldham	15	3	2	2	8	6	1	1	6	11	17	15
Gillingham	15	3	2	3	9	9	1	1	5	9	15	15
Carlisle	14	2	0	4	6	15	2	3	3	7	10	15
Stevenage	15	2	1	4	9	11	2	1	5	6	12	14
Tranmere	15	1	2	4	9	19	2	2	4	6	10	13
Crewe	15	2	3	3	8	15	1	1	5	4	16	13
Sheff Utd	15	3	2	2	9	7	0	1	7	4	16	12
Bristol C	14	0	4	3	7	12	1	3	3	14	15	10
Notts Cnty	15	3	0	4	11	9	0	1	7	6	20	10

*Coventry deducted 10 points for entering administration

SkyBet League Two

Acc Stanley.....	1	Wycombe.....	1
Murphy 90		Stewart 72	
HT 0-0		Att 1,268	
Burton Albion.....	0	Morecambe.....	1
		Williams 34	
HT 0-1		Att 2,702	
Bury.....	1	Torquay.....	3
Cameron 24		Downes 18	
HT 1-2		McCallum 29,57	
Cheltenham.....	2	York.....	2
Harrison 12		Bowman 20,54	
Richards 45			
HT 2-1			
Chesterfield.....	1	Scunthorpe.....	1
Richards 8		Waterfall 88	
HT 1-0		Att 6,346	
Fleetwood Tn.....	4	Newport County.....	4
Schumacher 4 pen,48,59 pen		Zebroski 71 pen	
HT 1-0		Att 2,354	
Hartlepool.....	2	Dagenham.....	2
Poole 12		Hines 56	
Monkhouse 79			
HT 1-0		Att 3,450	
Oxford Utd.....	0	Bristol R.....	1
HT 0-0		O'Toole 71 pen	
Plymouth.....	1	Northmptn.....	0
Alessandra 90			
HT 0-0		Att 6,547	
POMPEY.....	3	Exeter.....	2
Holmes 45		Coles 75	
Bird 49,71		O'Flynn 84	
HT 1-0			
Rochdale.....	L	AFC Wimbledon.....	L
Allen 35		S Moore 54	
HT 1-0			



GET IN: Ex-Saints boss Alan Pardew celebrates as his Newcastle side beat Chelsea 2-0 earlier today.

		HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	
Fleetwood	15	4	1	3	17	11	5	0	2	9	5	28	
Oxford Utd	15	2	3	3	7	8	5	2	0	16	5	26	
Chesterfield	15	4	2	2	10	7	3	3	1	11	7	26	
Rochdale	14	6	1	0	16	6	2	1	4	6	11	26	
Morecambe	15	3	3	1	13	10	4	1	3	9	10	25	
Exeter	15	4	0	3	9	9	3	3	2	11	8	24	
Burton	15	2	2	4	8	10	5	1	1	12	8	24	
Scunthorpe	15	4	2	1	8	6	2	3	2	11	24	11	
Southend	15	4	1	3	10	6	3	1	3	8	8	23	
Newport	15	5	1	1	16	7	1	4	3	6	12	23	
Dagenham	15	4	2	1	12	6	2	3	3	10	10	23	
Wycombe	14	3	1	3	9	9	3	2	2	11	8	21	
Hartlepool	15	4	0	4	10	10	2	3	2	9	7	21	
Mansfield	15	2	3	2	10	8	3	3	2	5	7	21	
POMPEY	14	4	0	3	11	9	1	5	1	12	13	20	
Wimbledon	14	4	1	2	10	8	1	2	4	5	10	18	
Weymouth	15	2	2	4	11	12	2	0	5	6	18	18	
Cheltenham	15	2	2	4	14	13	2	0	5	11	18	18	
Bristol R	15	3	1	3	10	9	1	3	4	11	15	16	
York	15	2	3	2	7	8	1	2	5	5	10	14	
Torquay	15	1	4	2	7	10	2	1	5	10	15	14	
Bury	15	2	3	3	9	9	1	1	5	7	11	13	
Acc Sandh	15	1	3	4	7	10	1	2	4	5	12	11	
Northampton	15	1	4	2	9	9	1	0	7	4	13	10	